

A HISTORY  
OF THE  
HESSER FAMILY  
(1708-1945)

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A HISTORY  
OF THE  
HESSER FAMILY

AT VALLEY FORGE.

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—Washington—

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The day moved well, with not so much  
in the beautiful flower garden  
that night, which grows in the garden  
Kern's from the garden -  
"Kern's from the garden -  
in the garden to the garden  
"Kern's from the garden -  
"Kern's from the garden -  
"Kern's from the garden -

These very trees were the first and they  
 are always green and fresh.  
 But these are modern things,  
 and will not be replaced  
 by anything else in the library.  
 In comparing the new with  
 the old, we find that the new  
 is better than the old.

My brother John and I, sent you  
a photograph of us.  
My mother and John were at the  
factory to see  
the people from there, the 1st night,  
in the room I did tonight.  
I was with you, the 2nd night  
the 1st night.

I know a good story, Wednesday forenoon  
a story of the night.  
And I have read the stories down  
by street with all my people,  
and I have told my tale of love and  
to have read with the street  
and once I play with the street  
and one day the street was

The Shuman House at Mendocino,  
 built in 1899, retained the spirit  
 of the house as well as the  
 wood work and the roof work.  
 The house was built of wood  
 and was a very fine example of  
 the style of the house.

[illegible]

The poet has observed as he speaks  
 His language thoughtful & his pathos  
 Just as the first & gentle breeze  
 The sweet green light of dawn  
 A gentle breeze has kissed the land  
 The other poems are long  
 The poet has seen as he speaks  
 His language thoughtful & his pathos

For the first time, judges in England spoke  
the long word "feminine"  
and for the first time the word "woman"  
was used in the same way.  
A new word of the same kind - "girl"  
had been in use since the  
first woman was born.

There is no real thing, and I really need  
to know something about that  
to really know, to play the role.  
Thought I'd start with a small  
idea, I'm sure you'll see, that the  
left is behind the day  
when right shall go, the victory

With feeling heart Washington saw  
The smoke-rose rising in air,  
With burning path, smoke made and red  
With speed drove to the tower,  
In the heart of the tower, where he stood  
The day he passed away —  
And saw, long after the sunset there

There - This book is well known by Capt. Henry B. Brown  
and his family. The son of Frederick Brown, Esq., who  
has this manuscript - I believe it is H. B.



## On Historical Reminiscences.

On the Fall of the year, 1776, two brothers, Frederick and John Howard, aged thirteen and fifteen years respectively, enlisted in the Continental army. These soldier boys started from the Trappe, Montgomery County, Penna. They were with Washington on that eventful night, the 26th, 1776, which was cold, dark and stormy, when he and his little army of ragged, but true patriots, crossed the swollen Delaware, were almost frozen to death, and defeated the British force which were closely



...the father he was  
...the father he was

a lot of money. When  
from an English gentleman  
completely ignorant in the  
art of designing. After re-  
turning at the English Col-  
lege, he was introduced  
to Washington's circle, and  
acting in the capacity  
of a dramatic participant  
in the hall of Francis and  
September 11th, 1777,  
where one of his drama-  
tists was shot from his  
head, a man which made  
French feel very indignant.

[illegible]

When he died he was eighty-eight years of age, and was in full possession of his faculties. He was buried with military honors at the Arlington Soldiers' Plot by a detachment from Fort Detrick.

The celebrated John, who was captured from Frederick after the Battle of Ticonderoga and was assigned to another part of the army. He served as a fife throughout the Revolution, playing according to a liking for military life, he continued in the service until the Battle of New Orleans. Here he was his last service. He said about the British: "was up against Jackson's Legion Fort, they presented a magnificent sight, passing in attention whatever to any military unit of the British" all the while going along the line they could see complete language to find them out. "I was in the front line, I was not reached it, but I saw them" they "I know and I know how to do it" he said.

John came home again when he was about  
fifty-five years of age, having been away since the  
the return of his country.

Pepperack with her three and John with her two  
would celebrate the anniversary of the death  
of Ben Lusk. This was kept up during their  
lives.

The fact of two boys, but thirteen and fifteen years of age, were exhibited, now might we, considering the efforts of Howe's training and taking part in engine building with a practical and theoretical test, exhibits a degree of patriotism and handicraft that entitles the boys to the famous reputation of old, and shows of what material these boys were made when founded this great country, and transmitted to the inheritance of liberty and independence.

James W. Jones, Esq.

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GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND FREDERICK HESSER (3),  
DRUMMER-BOY AT VALLEY FORGE

This idealized picture of Washington and Fred Hesser, his drummer boy, along with the poem and an historical Reminiscence was used as a picture-poster in 1886. These picture-posters were sold to help raise funds for the Valley Forge Memorial Association. This is a copy, reproduced from an original which is owned by a descendant of Frederick (3). See page 80 for poem and the historical reminiscence.



# A HISTORY OF THE HESSER FAMILY (1708-1945)

“People will not look forward to posterity  
who never look backward to their ancestors.”

EDMUND BURKE

Written and Compiled By  
GEORGE ERNEST HESSER



Nineteen Hundred and Forty-Seven



1548727

DEDICATED  
TO MY FAMILY

TO WHOM  
THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF NOBLE ANCESTRY  
IS AN INSPIRATION TO NOBLE LIVING.



Insistant voices call from out the past  
“A noble race doth well its own endow  
So pure and fine let all thine actions be,  
None can deny of royal race art thou.”





## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Dedication -----	v
Prelude -----	ix
List of Illustrations -----	xiii
Why Our Ancestors Came -----	1
The First Hessers Arrive in America -----	7
Historic Germantown and St. Michael's Lutheran Church ----	11
"The Sign of the Buck" or the Buck Tavern -----	27
The Concord School -----	39
The Descendants of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1708-1763) ----	45
1. The Descendants of John Hesser (1735-1792) -----	50
2. The Descendants of Frederick Hesser (1736- ) -----	55
3. The Descendants of Leonard Hesser (1739-1807) -----	177
4. The Descendants of George Nicholas Hesser (1747-1804)	180
Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa Hesser Families -----	212
The Descendants of Peter Conrad Hesser (1767-?) -----	216
1. The Descendants of John Conrad Hesser (1791-1844) -	216
2. The Descendants of Jonathan Hesser (1791-1876) ----	219
3. The Descendants of Andrew Hesser (1799 or 1800-?) --	220
4. The Descendants of Peter Hesser (1805-?) -----	220
5. There Were Others -----	220
Addenda -----	233
Index -----	236
Postlude -----	251



## PRELUDE



FROM Spark's Life of Washington we find "In the midst of his duties as President of the United States in 1792 George Washington found time to collect and write out the genealogy of his family."

Also in Spark's Life of Franklin we find the following,—“I have ever had a pleasure in obtaining any little anecdotes of my ancestors.” So writes Benjamin Franklin in his autobiography.

Something more than twenty years ago, the author and compiler of this book commenced making researches of the history and genealogy of the Hesser family in America. It all started when he filled out his papers for admission to the Sons of the American Revolution through another family line.

This history and genealogy was originally intended only as a compilation of the records and traditions of the author's own family, but has been extended to become a genealogy of all of the sons of Johann Friedrich Hesser (the emigrant) who came to America in 1732 along with other Hesser families throughout the country. It will be found to restore chains of friendship and consanguinity which have been broken for generations. More than that, it is in no small sense of the word a genealogical history of “Hesser Country”—early Germantown, the Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio Counties in which they lived, fought for their Country and died, casting new light upon the beginnings of their families.

The author has not gone beyond the American shores to see who or what station the Hessers occupied in Germany. Some years ago while delving into the genealogical department of the New York State Library in Albany he found the following translation regarding the House of Hesse.

“The House of Hesse descended from Godefroid de Leuwen in 1106 who became the ruler of Basse-Lorraine (Brabant). From him descended Henry II and in 1248 married Sophie de Thuringe, niece of d'Alleagne Henri Raspe. At his death in 1247 the male line of the landgraves of Thuringe ended. Sophia's son Henri, called the



l'Enfant, founded the House of Hesse. The House was divided into landgraves in 1373. The branches were Hesse-Cassel and Hesse-Darmstadt. Hesse-Cassel became an Electorate in 1803 but ceased to reign in 1866 and the line was called Hesse-Philippsthal and Hesse-Philippsthal-Barchfeld. The House of Hesse-Darmstadt became a grand-duchey in 1866, the landgrave Louis X received in 1806 the title of Grand-Duke—and became Louis I. His descendants represent the grand-duche' de Hesse." On the Hesse coat of arms is inscribed, "Virtute et Fidelitate."

We shall not be so extravagant as to claim royal descent from this ancient House, however; most of us do not need to go back many generations to find a nearer ancestor who was every inch a King. Another Hesser may some day follow through and succeed in finding where we Hessers belong in the Palatinate district of Germany.

We do know that the early Hessers who came from Germany were a religious, thrifty, frugal working people, carving out places for themselves in their various communities and helping the young colonial government in time of great peril. Practically all of the eligible male members of the Hesser family served with distinction the colony of Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. We find the Hessers in later years occupying positions in all walks of life, among the professions some doctors, ministers, musicians, teachers, artists, as well as railroad executives and employees, farmers, laborers, and men of affairs and business. In a way the family represents a fine cross section of our great country, for members of the family have filled honorable and important stations throughout the land.

The task of collecting the materials for this memorial has, of course, been laborious, beyond what anyone can realize who has not performed a similar labor. Months have been spent in searching city and town records in Pennsylvania, as well as burial grounds where large numbers of the name have resided and still reside. Days and hours have been spent in searching the Pennsylvania County records of Mifflin, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Northumberland, Juniata, Cumberland, Northampton, Lehigh, Chester, Berks and Bucks along with those in Virginia and Ohio. The oldest and largest libraries of New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Albany, and the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., have been visited in quest of genealogical material. The probate records, orphans court, deeds, wills, census records, tax records, of Philadelphia and other



counties in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio have been thoroughly examined; also the records in the state library at Harrisburg, Pa. and Richmond, Va. In addition to this, many families have been visited, old family Bibles scanned to gather their family records, and all facts of interest that could be reached, and over one thousand letters have been received in answer to about twice that number written.

The search has been particularly difficult for it seems that definite family records were not kept in most instances by family members. A number of expert genealogists were employed to make searches and help unravel the tangles of dates, and places. The compiler wishes to assure the many living Hessers that he has spared no time and thought (as well as money) to make as complete a record of the many Hesser families as possible. Perfection, however, in such a work, cannot be expected. Great difficulty has often been experienced in deciphering old records and inscriptions, and in reading some of the letters received from aged persons and others unaccustomed to epistolary correspondence. Often, too, the statements in regard to ages, dates of birth, marriage and deaths in the different branches of a family, have conflicted with each other. In some instances no dates could be found, in which case only an approximation to accuracy was attempted.

We have tried to contact all male Hessers so that, if possible, they might be included in the "family tree." To sort out all of the lines with meager or no information in many cases has been a difficult task. For instance, many could not go beyond their grandfather's name—some few their great-grandfather's name. To some letters sent, there were no replies. Dozens of pedigree forms as well as form letters, were sent out asking for information about Hessers anywhere. So if your family is not represented or properly placed in this volume, it should be borne in mind that the author has tried valiantly to perform the impossible.

It is extremely difficult to avoid errors in printing a work containing so many figures, even when the copy is complete. There are, of course, many of the younger generations now on the American scene who have been born within the last few years—since the preparation of this work—which are not included, and many are deceased since the last intelligence received.

The special thanks of the author are due a number of persons who have aided him in his research. First, he would thank the

many, many Hessers who have sent information concerning their families, with historical incidents of interest.

He is indebted to a number of genealogists who have advised with him and who secured authentic records regarding certain branches of the family—especially helpful in this connection were the late Miss Mamie Wood of Philadelphia, Mr. Edward W. Hocker, Librarian, Germantown Historical Society, and Miss Jessica C. Ferguson, Genealogical Librarian, State Library, Harrisburg, Pa.

I wish also to thank Mr. Henry Drinker of Philadelphia, the owner of the original manuscript of *Elizabeth Drinker's Journal*, for granting me permission to use excerpts pertaining to the early Hessers in Germantown—and thanks to Mr. Charles F. Jenkins, Philadelphia, for granting permission to use the picture of the George Hesser House contained in his charming book, *Washington in Germantown*.

Special thanks are due several members of the Hesser family who have contributed greatly with family records, pictures, and historical data. They are my father, Mr. George Gaylord Hesser, of Crestline, Ohio; Miss Cora M. McKeehan, Chambersburg, Pa.; Mrs. Gladys Hesser Lord, Medford, Mass.; Dr. Lydia Baker Pierce, Westborough, Mass.; Miss Elizabeth W. Hesser, Lebanon, Pa.; Mrs. May E. Enders, Newtown, Pa.; Mr. J. W. Clifford Hesser, Nichols, Iowa; Mr. William Henry Hesser, Westfield, New Jersey; and Mrs. Mary H. Wood, Norristown, Pa. (who has the original picture of General George Washington and his drummerboy, Frederick Hesser 3.)

The present work is submitted to the numerous members of the Hesser family, in the hope that it will be acceptable; and that it may stimulate the present and future generations to emulate the piety, the love of freedom and religious liberty, and that devotion to the welfare of all which characterized their Lutheran ancestor and his more-immediate descendants.

The two sets of numbers used in the genealogy section of the book may need explanation. Numerals preceding a name indicate the individuals place in his parents' family; those following in parentheses represent his generation in descent from the founder of the particular branch to which he belongs. It should also be added that direct descendants in the male line have their names printed in capitals.

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Washington and his Drummer Boy at Valley Forge -----	II
St. Michael's Lutheran Church -----	12
Old Buck Tavern -----	26
Concord School -----	38
The Tohickon Church -----	44
Signature of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) -----	44
Family Tree -----	46-47
Tombstone of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) -----	48
The Old Trappe Church -----	57
Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenburg -----	58
Frederick Hesser (3) -----	62
The Langton Peter Hesser Family -----	70
The Old First Methodist Church Crestline, Ohio -----	122
The New First Methodist Church Crestline, Ohio -----	126
Dr. George Ernest Hesser -----	129
Ethel Martin Hesser -----	133
George Nicholas Hesser (2) and wife Catharine -----	181
The George Nicholas Hesser House -----	183
Joel Harter Hesser (5) -----	201
The Hesser Business College -----	205
Gladys Hesser-Lord -----	207





## WHY OUR ANCESTORS CAME



S I write today we are in the midst of the Second World War, one of the great tragedies of all time. Because of selfishness, greed, lust for power, religious intolerance and a perverted philosophy for the way of life, a few militaristic rulers are persecuting, killing and driving into slavery racial groups and smaller nations that cannot, because of their lack of armies and arms, protect themselves. The peoples of Poland, France, Norway, Ugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Holland, Belgium, and Greece have, in many localities, been driven from their homes, their communities plundered and burned, the male population sent away into slavery and concentration camps, the women to work on farms and in factories and the children to schools to be trained in the Nazi ideology. Many of these unfortunate people have escaped and have come to America, the "land of the free" and the haven for refugees. Thousands of unfortunate souls would like to come if it were possible to get out of their country; but the lack of funds, transportation and the iron heel of the Nazis make it impossible.

A similar condition prevailed in parts of Europe and especially in the Palatine district of Germany in the 17th and early part of the 18th century. Of course the persecution was not on so vast a scale as the present global war but the conditions were very much like those of today. Possibly religion played a greater role in the troubles of that period than it does in the present world conflict.

"The Lower Palatinate lay upon the Rhine near the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine and contained the ancient towns of Heidelberg and Mannheim. The Upper Palatinate lay towards the southeast on the Danube and its most important town was Amberg. Most of the Germans who came to Pennsylvania appear to have been from the Lower Palatinate on the Rhine, which suffered most from the persecution and invasion of the French."<sup>1</sup>

At the close of the Thirty Years' War the population of Germany had been reduced from thirty millions to twelve millions, and two-

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<sup>1</sup>From "The Making of Pennsylvania" by Sydney George Fisher, copyright 1896, 1924, published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Phila., Pa.



thirds of the personal property had been wiped out. The historian, Myers, describes the effects of the struggle thus: "On every side were charred remains of the hovels of the peasants and the palaces of the nobility. Vast districts lay waste without an inhabitant. The very soil in many regions had reverted to primitive wilderness. . . . For the lifetime of a generation men had been engaged in the business of war and had allowed their children to grow up in absolute ignorance. Vice, nourished by the licentious atmosphere of the camp, reigned supreme. After the war the disbanded soldiers became thieves and brigands, and thousands were executed. Germany was persecuted by these maurauding bands for a full century after the Peace of Westphalia. Thus civilization, which had begun to develop with so much promise in Germany, received a check from which it did not begin to recover, so benumbed were the very senses of men, for a generation or more."

The hopes of the South German people that their troubles were at an end proved forlorn. At no time, after the Peace of Westphalia was signed, was there actual peace in the Rhine and Danube country. During the next century one European army after another harried the district; German, French, Austrian and British troops all took their toll of the hapless people. In 1681 Louis IV seized the City of Strausburg; in 1685 he revoked the Edict of Nantes which had granted to the Protestants the right of tolerance in his dominions; and from 1688 to 1697 his army was continuously in the Rhine Valley, destroying home and country without remorse. Hundreds of thousands were left destitute. From 1701 until 1714 the country suffered again the War of the Spanish Succession, in which practically every important nation in Europe was arrayed against the French monarch, but there was no relief for the people until the death of Louis in 1715, and by that time the devastation was almost complete.

In these latter years agents of William Penn, the Englishman, visited the Palatinate region and offered the inhabitants an opportunity of securing a pleasanter home of their own, thousands of miles removed from the European strife, in the new Colony of Pennsylvania which was at that time being settled. Many eagerly accepted the invitation and as early as 1710 the emigration to America began. It was during the winter of 1704-05 that Penn wrote to James Logan "that he has an hundred German families preparing to go to Pennsylvania, which will buy thirty or forty thousand acres of land."

Then again, in the summer of 1709 Penn tells Logan of the coming of the Palatines (Germans) and admonishes him to treat them "with tenderness and care"; he states that they are "a sober people,—and will neither swear nor fight"—which was a great recommendation as far as the Quaker founder of the Colony was concerned.

The trials and hardships endured by these early thrifty German folk who left their fatherland to be free from religious oppression is a story that is hard to believe. The perilous ocean voyage of eight or ten or twelve weeks in little wooden ships, herded together like cattle under sanitary conditions that are unthinkable today and the poor food and water aboard ship, all help to paint a picture of the hardy "Pennsylvania Dutch" who represent our early ancestry.

"The particulars of the immigration of the Palatines are worthy of extended notice. The events which produced the movement in the heart of an old and polished European nation to seek refuge and a home on the Western continent, are quite as legitimate a subject of American history as the oft-repeated relation of the experiences of the Pilgrim Fathers."<sup>2</sup>

To get the proper atmosphere, to realize, in part, the manner of men our progenitors were, we must acquaint ourselves with the governmental, religious, and other conditions under which they and their ancestors lived.

Rupp, the historian, has the following to say regarding the coming of our ancestors to Pennsylvania:

"At different periods, various causes and diverse motives induced them to abandon their Vaterland. Since 1606, millions have left their homes in Germany. Religious persecution, political oppression, drove thousands to Pennsylvania—to the asylum for the harassed and depressed sons and daughters of the relics of the Reformation, whither William Penn himself invited the persecuted of every creed and religious opinion.

"From 1682 to 1776, Pennsylvania was the central point of emigration from Germany, France and Switzerland. Penn's liberal views, and the illiberal course of the government of New York toward the Germans, induced many to come to this Province.

"In the first period of 20 years, from 1682-1702, comparatively few Germans arrived: not above 200 families—they located princi-

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<sup>2</sup>"Story of the Palatines" by Cobb. Pub. G. B. Putnam's Sons, N. Y. Words of Judge Benton in History of Herkimer County.



pally at Germantown. They were nearly all Plattdeutsch, Low Germans, from Cleves, a Duchy in Westphalia, and arrived in 1683-1685. Leaving their native country at that time, they providentially escaped the desolation of a French war, which in 1689 laid waste the city of Worms near which town they resided; ravaged the countries for miles around, where flames went up from every market place, every hamlet, every parish church, every country seat within the devoted provinces.

“Francis Daniel Pastorius arrived in America August 20, 1683 and in the same year laid out Germantown. He commenced the town with 13 families. In less than five years some 50 houses had been erected.

“The period from 1702-1727 marks an era in the early German emigration. Between 40 and 50 thousand left their native country. To escape the dreadful sufferings awaiting them, German and other Protestants emigrated to the English colonies in America.

“The Germans were principally farmers. They depended more upon themselves than upon others. They were those of whom Governor Thomas said, 1738: “This Province has been for some years the asylum of the distressed Protestants of the Palatinate and other parts of Germany; and, I believe, it may truthfully be said, that the present flourishing condition of it is in a great measure owing to the industry of these people; it is not altogether the fertility of the soil, but the number and industry of the people, that makes a country flourish.”

“About 1728 and 1729, the Germans crossed the Susquehanna, located within the present limits of York and Adams County.

“At a meeting of the Board of the Provincial Council held at the Court House in Philadelphia, September 21, 1727, one hundred and nine Palatines appeared, who, with their families, numbered about four hundred persons. These were imported into the Province in the ship William and Sarah, William Master, from Rotterdam, last from Dover, England, as by clearance from the officers of His Majesty's customs there. The said master being asked if he had any license from the Court of Gt. Br. for transporting those people, and what their intentions were in coming hither, said that he had no license or allowance for their transportation other than the above clearance, and that he believed they designed to settle in this Province. Col. Rec. III. 283.

"All male persons above the age of sixteen did repeat and subscribe their names, or made their mark, to the following Declaration:

"We subscribers, natives and late inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhine and places adjacent, having transported ourselves and families into this Province of Penna., a colony subject to the Crown of Grt. Br., in hopes and expectation of finding a retreat and peaceable settlement therein, do solemnly promise and engage, that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His present Majesty, King George The Second, and His successors, Kings of Great Britain, and will be faithful to the proprietor of this Province: and that we will demean ourselves peaceably to all His said Majesty's subjects, and strictly observe and conform to the Laws of England and of this Province, to the utmost of our power and the best of our understanding."<sup>3</sup>

These Palatines were naturally religious and the Church people as they were called, the Lutherans and the Reformed, began to arrive in large numbers about 1725. The sects (Mennonites, Tunkers, Schwenkfelders, and others) in most cases came in organized groups while the Church people did not. As soon as they arrived in Pennsylvania all bodies became active and the spiritual life of the people centered about the church. Our first forebears (the Hessers) seemed to be of the Lutheran faith as later information and research will disclose.

As a rule the Germans were farmers who through great economy and thrift were able in a short time to acquire a farm or farms.

"They worked their farms with their sons, daughters, and wives, and had very few slaves. They developed a fine breed of heavy draught horses called Conestogas, from a stream near Lancaster where they were first bred. The same name, Conestoga, was applied to their wagons, strong and solid as a fortification, and covered with a great canvas roof like the prairie schooners of later times. Until far down into the present century these wagons were one of the most typical scenes on all the highways of eastern Pennsylvania, as, filled with chickens, turkeys, and all kinds of the best country produce, they rolled slowly towards the towns."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Rupp's Thirty Thousand Names of German Immigrants.

<sup>4</sup>From "The Making of Pennsylvania"—by Sydney George Fisher, copyright 1896, 1924, published by J. B. Lippincott Company.

So we find many of the early Hessers following the rural way of life, saddlers, teamsters and farmers, beginning first in Germantown, (now a part of Philadelphia) and working westward hewing out their ways of life according to the pattern of the pioneers.



## THE FIRST HESSERS ARRIVE IN AMERICA



THOSE priceless colonial records, the Pennsylvania Archives, and the volumes, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* by Strassberger, edited by W. J. Hinke, as well as Rupp's *Collection of Thirty Thousand Names*, have preserved for us the entries of the names of the first Hessers, emigrants from Germany who arrived in Philadelphia and qualified as British subjects taking the oath of allegiance to King George the Second of England.

The Hesser family is, indeed, a small one as families go, there being only four of that name who came to this country prior to 1800; Johann Frederick who came in 1732; Johann Conrad in 1752; Johann Ludwig in 1753; and John Henrich in 1767. There were many names listed that were similar such as Hasser, Hessler, Hausser, Heisser, Hesse, Hess, Hass and Heiss, but only four who spelled the name HESSER. There was a Ludwig Hesser living in Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania, in 1783, as his name appears on a tax list of that date, with the notation that there were three persons in his family. This was possibly Johann Ludwig Hesser who arrived in Philadelphia, September 28, 1753. This is all of the information your author has found regarding this family.

In 1789 a Conrad Hesser died intestate in Loudoun County, Virginia. An inventory of his estate was filed in Loudoun County, December 14, 1789. Further information regarding this Conrad Hesser and his family is given later in the genealogy section devoted to the Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, and Iowa families. He may have been the Johann Conrad Hesser who arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 20, 1752, on the good ship *Duke of Wirtemberg*. John Henry, who came in 1767, settled in Cumberland County, Pa., and served in the Revolutionary War. Further than that we have no record.

John Frederick Hesser (Johann Friedrich) came to Pennsylvania in 1732. He was the first of that name to settle in the colony. Among the list of passengers on the ship *Loyal Judith* of London, Robert Turpin, Master, from Rotterdam who qualified September

25, 1732, we find the name of Johann Frederick Hesser. And in the list of original signatures we find Johann Friederich Heyser (or Hesser) aged twenty-five years.<sup>1</sup> This would make him born 1707. He settled in Germantown, Philadelphia County, Pa.

The following is the record of his arrival in Philadelphia:<sup>2</sup>

“September 23rd, 1732

At the Court House before the Governor and sundry magistrates the foregoing qualifications were taken and subscribed by the several foreigners whose names are contained in this and the preceeding page.

Robert Charles, Cl. Con.

“(List 24a) Palatines imported in the ship *Loyal Judith* of London, Robt. Turpin, Mr., Qualified Sept. 25th, 1732)

John Frederick Hayster

119 men—a True list—Robt. Turpin

“Philadia Sept. 25, 1732

At the Courth in presence of the Honble the Govn & Sam. Hasell, Esqr, May, and within List were sworn to by Rob. Turbin, Master of Pink Loyal Judith.

Robt. Charles, Cl. Con.

“At the Courthouse aforesaid, Sept. 25th, 1732, one hundred and fifteen Palatines, who with their families, making in all ———, Persons, were imported here in the ship *Loyal Judith*, of London, Robert Turpin, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes, as by clearance thence.”

From minutes of the Provincial Council, printed in Colonial Records, Vol. III, P. 456

“(List 24 B) Palatines imported in the ship Loyal Judith, of London, Robt. Turpin, Mr., from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes, Clearance thence, qualified Sept. 25, 1732.

Johann Frederick Hesser

“(List 24 C) Same as above.

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<sup>1</sup>Pa. Ar. 2nd Serv., Vol. KVII, pp. 64, 65.

Penna. German Pioneers—W. J. Hinke, Vol. I, pp. 88, 90, 92.

Penna. German Society—Vol. 42.

<sup>2</sup>Penna. German Pioneers—W. J. Hinke, Vol. I, pp. 87, 89, 91.



The writer has a photostatic copy of the original passenger list of immigrants who arrived on the *Loyal Judith*, Sept. 25, 1732.<sup>3</sup> This list contains the signature of Johann Friedrich Hesser. The heading of the ship's passenger list reads as follows:

"We subscribers natives and late inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhine and place adjacent having transported ourselves and families into the Province of Pennsylvania a Colony subject to the Crown of Great Britain in hopes and expectation of finding a retreat and peaceable settlement therein do solemnly promise and engage that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Second, and his successors Kings of Great Britain and will be faithful to the Proprietor of this Province and that we will demean ourselves peaceably to all His said Majesty's subjects and strictly observe and conform to the laws of England and of this Province to the utmost of our power and best of our Understanding."

The following line is just above the signatures of the ship list of passengers:

"Palatines imported in the ship *Loyal Judith* of London Robt Turpin, Mr, from Rotterdam but last from Cowes for clearance thence  
Qualified Sept 25th 1732"

The passenger list is headed by Johannes Christian Schultz, Minister.<sup>1</sup> Many of the Passengers could not write their names and made their marks with some one else writing in the names. However, Johann Friedrich Hesser has given us his own bold signature.

From all that has been revealed in the preceeding paragraphs, which represents painstaking research, it definitely establishes the

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<sup>3</sup>The original ship list is in the Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg, Pa.

<sup>1</sup>"Pastor Johann Christian Schultz (Schulz) one of the earliest clergymen to serve the Trappe congregation, was born June 11, 1701, Germany. He studied for the ministry and arrived in America on the ship "Loyal Judith," Sept. 25, 1732, and almost immediately succeeded Pastor Stoever in the charge of the three congregations at Philadelphia, New Hanover and Providence (Trappe, Pa.). He did not remain long in America, but returned to Europe with two companions during the following year, with the avowed purpose of collecting funds for the three congregations in Pennsylvania.

"He seems to have abused the confidence reposed to him, and applied to his own uses the funds collected by him under the above quoted authority. So notorious and disgraceful did his conduct become, that at last he was arrested at Augsburg in March, 1736, and deprived of his credentials and license to collect money. He, however, seems to have secured his discharge and the return of the "Collection Buch," as some months later he was again arrested, this time at Nuremberg, where the book was taken from him, and he was compelled to surrender the money still in his possession, which amounted to 520 Gulden. In addition, he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment, after which nothing was heard of him."

emigrant Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) in Philadelphia. A little later we find him in Germantown with his wife Anna Maria Catharina—and as the years go by his family of sons and daughters emerge.

As the country began to develop and greater opportunities presented themselves, we find some of the Hessers staying on in Germantown but there were others who moved westward along the line of migration farther west into Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and California.

The general line of migration for emigrants coming from Germany to Pennsylvania was through Philadelphia, Germantown and westward into Pennsylvania. However, some of the early emigrants who came to America, landing in Philadelphia, remained there but a short time and then continued on down into Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. We find some of the Hessers following this line of travel. Some after going into Maryland and Virginia would continue a westward movement into Ohio, and even farther west, while some would move back into Pennsylvania. It is difficult to follow the movement of families when they leave little trace behind.

We will trace the generations from Johann Friedrich (1) and Johann Conrad on down as far as possible through genealogical material that has been revealed over a period of years.

Johann Friedrich (1) had four sons, and each family line of the four sons will be traced giving all of the historical data that has come to our attention and which seems to be authentic. May I suggest that you study the family chart beginning with Johann Frederick (1) before reading too far into the development of the lines of the four sons.

In Rupps Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants to Pennsylvania (1727 to 1775)—the following four Hessers are listed as arriving in Philadelphia:

Johann Friedrich Hesser, September 25, 1732—Palatines imported in the ship *Loyal Judith*, of London, Robert Turpin, Master from Rotterdam, last from Cowes

Johann Conrad Hesser, Oct. 20, 1752, on ship Duke of Wirtemberg, from Rotterdam, Daniel Montpelier, Commander

Joh. Ludwig Hesser, Sept. 28, 1753.

John Henrich Hesser, Qualified Oct. 26, 1767 on ship Brittanica, from Rotterdam, Alexander Hardy, Master.



## HISTORIC GERMANTOWN AND ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



BECAUSE our forebears, the Hessers, came from Germany, and first located largely in and about Germantown, Pennsylvania (since 1854 a part of Philadelphia) and because of the religious motives involved in the settlement there, it would be well to briefly consider the development of Germantown and St. Michael's Lutheran Church, of which many of them were early members.

The first emmigrants to Germantown came largely from the lower Rhine country. They purchased land from the Frankfort Company through Francis Daniel Pastorius who was the American real estate dealer of that early day. It was in the year 1683 that thirteen families left their native town of Crefeld going by the way of London to Pennsylvania. They arrived in Philadelphia on the 6th day of October and were met by Pastorius. The surveyor for the Province laid out the plots of land for the town which was later called Germantown. These first families were all Friends or Mennonites. By the year 1690 the little settlement had grown to forty-four families and from then on there was a constant influx of people from Germany and the Rhine Country pouring into Pennsylvania with most of them passing through or staying in Germantown. As one historian has said, "Germantown was the threshold over which entered into the new country the various German sects, the Dunkers, Lutherans, Swenkfelders, etc., now occupying the southeastern portion of Pennsylvania." Most of them stayed in Germantown making it their home.

These early settlers were industrious and brought with them their trades and occupations. There were farmers, bakers, and linen weavers and tanners, and a little later the making of stockings from the well known Germantown yarn or wool was started. It was here that the first paper mill in America was started in 1690 and also in 1743, the first American edition of the Bible was printed. So, as an early manufacturing center it has continued on down to the present day.



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, Pa., showing a portion of the old cemetery. Here is buried Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), his three sons, John, Leonard, George Nicholas, and members of their families. This is the third church to be built on this site.



The early town consisted of one straggling street which was about two miles long. The town is said to have looked very much like a German town down to the time of the Revolutionary War and that the German language was largely used. The first houses built were made of logs and later they constructed their houses of stone. In the central part of the town was the market place and at the two ends of the village were the two cemeteries.

It was toward the middle of the Eighteenth Century when Philadelphia and Germantown became wealthy that very beautiful homes were built which today stand as a reminder of the glory of that day. Many of the historic homes of that period have been restored and preserved for future generations.

In October 1933 the Germantown Historical Society held a three day celebration honoring the 250th Anniversary of the settlement of Germantown. A very elaborate pictorial program booklet was printed for this event with an historical text by Edward W. Hocker, Librarian of the Society. I quote the following from this program book. "Considerable misunderstanding has arisen because the names of some of the families that settled in Germantown in 1683 seem to be more Dutch than German. It is true that these names are more Dutch than German. But this does not indicate that the families bearing the names came from Holland. So far as can be ascertained all who arrived on October 6, 1683 came from the Crefeld region. (Germany)

These Dutch family names were common all over the Northwestern Germanic Provinces, as well as in the Netherlands. Two and a half centuries ago persons bearing such names were known as Low Germans, while those who spoke the German of literature were High Germans. These terms involved no reproach nor snobbery. The Low Germans lived in the "low countries," toward the North Sea, and the High Germans had their homes in the higher lands farther inland. Low German, or Platt-Deutsch, was one of the numerous German dialects, but it differed so decidedly from High German that persons accustomed to only one of these forms of speech could not understand the other.

From the Low German dialect the Dutch language of literature was evolved. The old Low German, or Platt-Deutsch, dialect, however, still prevails in a large part of Northern Germany.



Among the Pennsylvania Germans today the Mennonites, Brethren and Schwenkfelders all bear some resemblance to the Society of Friends, of which religious body the founders of Germantown were members. But the great mass of the Pennsylvania Germans are of the Lutheran or Reformed faiths. Nevertheless the dialect of the Pennsylvania Germans is akin to the speech of the Friends in that in addressing one another they always use "du"—equivalent to "thee" or "thou"—and not the high German "sie" or "you."

In literary German "sie" is used in addressing superiors or as a mark of courtesy, while "du" is employed in speaking to inferiors or in conversation among intimates. But in the Pennsylvania German dialect, as well as in most of the European German dialects, "du" only is used."

In considering the early settlement of Germantown it would seem that the outstanding personality was probably Francis Daniel Pastorius. He, in addition to the handling of the plots of land for the Frankfort Company was a distinguished scholar and probably the best educated man in the colonies. He was born in Germany in 1651 and came to Philadelphia in 1683. He was a lawyer, a teacher, counsellor, kept Court records, was bailiff, a justice of the peace and member of the Assembly. He found time to write a Primer which was the first original school book to be published in the colony and in addition wrote a number of other books which were printed. He in that early day, 1688 to be exact, protested through the Friends Monthly Meeting against slavery. He was a member of the Friends (Quaker) denomination and in 1698 was the first master of the Friends School in Philadelphia. John Greenleaf Whittier, the Quaker Poet, has told in a very beautiful way of the life of early Germantown and Pastorius in particular in his poem "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim." Pastorius died in the year 1719.

On the opening page of the Grund und Lager Buch (Ground and Lot Book), containing the record of land transactions in Germantown, Francis Daniel Pastorius wrote a Latin Salutation to Posterity. John Greenleaf Whittier translated this as follows as the introduction to his poem, "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim."

## PASTORIUS' SALUTATION TO POSTERITY

Hail to posterity!  
Hail, future men of Germanopolis!  
Let the young generations yet to be  
Look kindly upon this.  
Think how your fathers left their native land—  
Dear German land! O sacred hearths and homes!  
And where the wild beast roams  
In patience planned  
New forest-homes beyond the mighty sea,  
There undisturbed and free  
To live as brothers of one family.  
What pains and cares befell,  
What trials and what fears,  
Remember, and wherein we have done well  
Follow our footsteps, men of coming years!  
Where we have failed to do  
Aright, or wisely live,  
Be warned by us, the better way pursue,  
And knowing we are human, even as you,  
Pity us and forgive!  
Farewell, Posterity!  
Farewell, dear Germany!  
Forevermore farewell!<sup>1</sup>

In recounting the historic development of events and times of early Germantown we must include a part it played in the Revolutionary War. Being so near Philadelphia, the cradle of liberty and Independence Hall, naturally the spirit for freedom ran high in the little village. It was on October 4th, 1777 that the Battle of Germantown was fought. The American Army had been defeated at Brandywine and the British Army had occupied Philadelphia and Germantown. Washington, on the early morning of October 4th, made a surprise attack on the British and Hessians under Howe at Germantown. At the outset Washington's center and left under the leadership of Sullivan and Greene pushed the enemy back and it seemed as though victory was in sight: but Stephen who was on Greene's right, on account of the very dense morning fog, mistook the American left center directed by Wayne for the British and began firing, and at the same time a detachment of British who had taken

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<sup>1</sup>From the Complete Poetical Works of John G. Whittier. Cambridge Edition. Publisher, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.



over the large stone mansion of Judge Chew, in the rear, held up a section of the American Army. Stephen's mistake, on account of the firing in the rear caused confusion among the troops of the American Army. However, General Washington was able to lead them from the field of battle in good order. The loss of the British was 575 and the loss of the Americans, 673. The old Chew Mansion marked by cannon and bullet holes still stands as one of the show places of old Germantown. Following the battle the British Army returned to Philadelphia and Washington with his army in good order, returned to their camp on the Perkiomen Creek. The battle had lasted the whole day through, from early day light until after ten at night.

All four sons of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), the Emigrant, John (2), Leonard (2), Frederick (2), and Ensign George Nicholas (2), took part in the Germantown battle and served in the war, as well as the two famous grandsons of Johann Friedrich (1); namely Frederick (3) and John (3), the drummer and fifer, who enlisted at the ages of thirteen and fifteen. Interesting material regarding General Washington and his Hesser drummer-boy is told later. It should be noted that Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) the emigrant, evidently was a man of some standing in Germantown as he was witness to a number of wills in company with some well-known people, such as Pastorius and others.

Germantown was the home of President Washington on two occasions when the Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia, in 1793 and 1794. He lived in a fine old stone house at No. 5442 Main Street, known as the Morris house. It was here in Germantown that the famous painter, Gilbert Stuart, lived. It was also here at N. 5140 Main Street, Stuart's home, that several of the famous portraits of Washington were painted. Stuart used the second story of his barn to the rear of his house as his studio.

The early Hessers lived near St. Michael's Lutheran Church which was located on Main Street. An early newspaper note in 1751 speaks of Johann Friedrich (1), the emigrant, as a baker. John Hesser (2), son of Johann Friedrich (1), the emigrant, was an inn-keeper. His Inn which was the elder Hesser's home was called the "Sign of the Buck" or the "Buck Tavern" and was located on Main Street nearly opposite St. Michael's Church until after 1900. John Hesser (2) took out a license from 1767 to 1783. It was a meeting place for public affairs, sales, auctions, and town meetings. This we



gather from newspaper notices of the time. In 1793 is advertised a Sheriff's sale, "at the house of Leonard Hesser (2), the sign of the Buck in Germantown." In 1794 a Public Vendue at the house of Leonard Hesser (2) nearly opposite the Lutheran Church." Also in 1797, a Meeting here for the relief of Yellow Fever sufferers.

Leonard Hesser (2) and his family and George Hesser (2), his brother, seemed to have lived at the Buck Tavern with their brother John (2), the innkeeper, as they are taxed on "John Hesser's estate" from 1769 to 1782 when they seem to have acquired some land.

John Hesser (2) the innkeeper, evidently was a man of some means, as his will discloses. He drew a will September 4th, proved September 17, 1792 (Philadelphia Will Book, W-293) in which he remembers his brothers and sisters, and also his nephews. The will states that "after payment of debts, the house and lot where he lives goes to George Hesser (3), son of brother Leonard, to be given to him when he reaches the age of 25, when he shall pay to the Executors, 400 pounds. If he should die before 25, the bequest goes to his brother Jacob (3); if both die or fail to pay, then the property to be sold and revert to the estate."

"A Lot in Cheltenham township, 15 acres, to be sold; also 4 acres in Germantown, adjoining John Johnson. On first mentioned lot there is a malt mill with tub and appurtenances, which shall not be moved."

"Personal estate to be appraised and sold, except clothing, which is to be divided among the three brothers."

"Money bequests to three nephews, Brother Frederick's son John (3); brother George's (2) son, John (3); and Christina Miller's son John (3)."

"Remainder of estate divided into seven parts and distributed to the three brothers and four sisters." The Executors were brother George Hesser (2) and George Sommers.

Further mention of this Will which has been very helpful in establishing this family as well as a history of the old tavern, The Sign of the Buck, is made later.

It is very interesting to study the history of our Pennsylvania ancestry, for like the seed of Abraham, it has filtered throughout the vast open spaces of the United States, in numbers almost like unto

the pebbles upon a great beach; and for their sound religious principles, intelligence, thrift, perserverance, ingenuity, and industry, they are indeed honored.

Therefore to write of their religious views as well as their manners and customs, their economic, political, and military achievements certainly should prove interesting to all of those belonging to the Hesser ancestry.

Fleeing presumably as our ancestors fled, from the religious intolerance of Europe, they naturally on their arrival in the new World established first, altars of Worship. Building their new homes coupled with the freedom of worshiping God according to their peculiar views, were the things uppermost in their thoughts.

The one great prayer of our German ancestors, for which they gladly endured the breaking of home-ties, the perilous crossing of the great sea, and the still greater hardships to be endured in a new and unsettled land where the skulking red-man and the wild life of the forest were always on the lookout for prey, was independence of religion and politics—the conflict which began in Germany at the time of the Reformation under Martin Luther, and terminated when the Declaration of the Independence of our country made possible the rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

The idea of fear seems to have been unknown to those hardy brave pioneers. The protection and love of God, from whom they alone sought guidance, protected them in an extraordinary way from the Indians, as well as the wild life of the great forests. It was their great faith in God, their spiritual guide, which gave them courage for their many undertakings.

The Lutherans, for our early ancestors belonged to that denomination, began to arrive in Philadelphia in considerable numbers about 1725. The eminent divine, Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1741 became the leader of the Lutheran denomination in that colony as well as all of the other colonies. The early part of his ministry was spent in Philadelphia, La Trappe, New Hanover, and Germantown. He was a great leader and an organizer and was able to unite the Lutheran membership of that church into a synod in 1748. He was liberal in his thinking and belonging to the Pietist party in his church, he was given to philanthropy and to the alleviation of suffering—at the same time holding to the ancient landmarks of the Lutheran Church. The Lutherans



who broke away from the Catholic Church at the time of the Reformation held to the unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Sacraments as a means of grace, and permitted altars, candles and images in their churches.

The Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther (1483-1546) rendered an outstanding service, even comparable to his defense and example of freedom of conscience and thinking, in giving to the people, songs in their own tongue (not in Latin) which they could sing in the church service. He stressed the singing of hymns and established congregational singing. He wrote and composed many hymns himself and these with others made a great popular appeal, so much so, that his enemies said that Luther had destroyed more souls by his hymns than by his writings and speeches. Luther said, "Music is a gift from God and not from men. It puts the devil to flight and renders man cheerful. It makes him forget anger, immodesty, and every vice. To it I assign the highest place after theology."

It is not strange, then, that we find the love and performance of music and especially sacred music, as one of the characteristics of the Hesser family—it has come down with us through the various branches of the family as a possible reminder of our ancient heritage from the church. As a rule, the Hessers have been religious people alligning themselves with protestant denominations in the communities in which they lived. There have been ministers of the gospel, choir directors, choir singers in the Hesser family along with many others who have been interested in secular music, in fact I should say that music has been a tradition in the family.

Confirming what has been said regarding the religious and musical traits of various branches of the Hesser family, I will refer specifically to a few of them. First, I am told by a descendant of George Nicholas Hesser (2), Ensign in the Revolution, that he was chorister and led the singing in old St. Michael's Lutheran Church, in Germantown, Pennsylvania. In the field of theology the first minister of the gospel to appear is Reverend Charles (Carl) Hesser (4) who was a son of Frederick Hesser (3), the Revolutionary drummer-boy soldier. Reverend Charles Hesser (4) was a noted Evangelical minister in the early period of that church. He was born in Orwigsburg, Pa., 1807 and was killed by a horse in 1843; he is buried in Salem Cemetery in Orwigsburg, Pa. He had attained unusual



prominence at the age of his death. Several histories of the Evangelical Alliance devote considerable space to his church life. It is said that he sang very well and in early life played in a fife and drum corps and later performed on the violin in a subdued way because of the strictness of his religion. His son was the Rev. William Charles Hesser (1833-1906) a Methodist minister, born in Mifflinburg, Pa. He also was very musical, playing the cornet and violin and a little old Mason and Hamlin organ which he had in his home. In a letter from his son, the late William Henry Hesser of New Jersey he states, "he had a tenor voice of peculiar mellowness and in singing his articulation was almost perfect, as it was in his talking voice, hence in his evening sermons it often happened that he interspersed songs pertinent to the subject; for no thread of the theme was lost by his unique and appealing departure." We have found a number of Hesser families who evidently in the early days migrated southward from Pennsylvania going into Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. At the present writing, the pastor of the Union Station Methodist Church of Richmond, Virginia, is Reverend Claude Mitchell Hesser. He is the son of Andrew Mason Hesser whose parents settled in West Virginia near Pruntytown.

I am advised that Frederick Hesser (3), the Revolutionary drummer-boy soldier, was very musically inclined, playing the drum with excellence, and the violin with marked ability, and sang and lead the choir in St. Johns Reformed Church in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. In my own immediate family we all at various times sang in our village choir. My sister, Mrs. Albert F. Hartman (Nellie Sarah Hesser (7) is at present the organist and choir director of the First Presbyterian Church, Evansville, Indiana and my brother, Fred G. Hesser (7) (Crestline, Ohio) is soloist in the Methodist Church. I have acted in both the capacity of church soloist and choir director and my father and mother both sang in the Methodist Church choir (Crestline, Ohio) before I was born. My grandparents and great-grandparents loved to sing and enjoyed music as an avocation.

The mother of the distinguished American composer of songs, Oley Speaks, was Sarah A. Hesser Speaks (b. 1826). She was the daughter of Henry Hesser of Pennsylvania. Margaret Speaks, the well-known singer in concert and radio was the daughter of United States Congressman, John C. Speaks of Columbus, Ohio who was also a son of Sarah A. Hesser-Speaks.

So with these references, along with others, it would seem that the music tradition has come down to us through the generations along with a feeling of the importance of religious life.

When Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) the pioneer, arrived in Philadelphia on the good ship *Loyal Judith* in 1732, there was already a Lutheran Church established in Germantown. He settled in Germantown for we later find his name on the church records of St. Michael's Lutheran Church and his tombstone still stands in the old cemetery.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church located in Germantown at the southeast corner of Germantown Avenue and Phil-Ellena Street (Germantown is now a part of Philadelphia) was founded about 1727 and is the oldest Lutheran Congregation in Philadelphia. The present church edifice is the third on this site. In the church yard are buried many members of the early Hesser family along with such celebrities as Christopher Ludwick "Baker General" for the American Army of the Revolution, and Major James Witherspoon who died in the battle of Germantown along with many of the early inhabitants of the town.

The Writer, in visiting the Church last summer, observed the following inscription on the cornerstone of Old St. Michael's:

Built 1730  
Enlarged 1746  
Rebuilt 1819  
Rebuilt 1896

The old cemetery partially surrounds the church beginning in front and going around the side of the edifice and on to the rear of it for nearly a city block. The present building is a fine stone structure—the janitor was kind enough to show me about, pointing out the many fine features and appointments.

Before ever a German Lutheran Church was built in Germantown the people of this denomination worshipped in their homes and were served from time to time by itinerant preachers. In an article by Julius F. Sachse, Litt. D., he says: "When the party of forty pilgrims arrived at Germantown on that memorable Sunday, St. John's Day, June 24, 1694, they looked in vain for the Church they were led to believe existed here, a spiritual home where the Holy Sacraments and ordinances of the Orthodox Lutheran Church were regularly administered. No white steeple surmounted by a golden



'Hahn' loomed skyward as they approached the settlement; no tones of a sonorous bell were wafted upon the still air of the Sabbath, calling the worshippers to assemble at the holy shrine; no melodious strains of song and praise greeted their ears as they filed into the single street of the German metropolis of the New World. How great must have been the disappointment of these devout pilgrims! The first thing done after arriving at the house of Van Bibber, and mutual greetings were over, was to hold a regular Lutheran Church Service, giving thanks for their safe arrival and God's mercy which had protected them in so many ways during times of trial and danger. At this meeting Heinrich Bernhard Koster officiated, as he had acted as chaplain during the whole voyage."<sup>1</sup>

These services continued in the homes every two or three weeks until about 1700 when Rev. Koster left this community. Koster seemed to be the force that kept the Lutheran people together and while he did not organize the first Church he kept the faith alive and sowed the seed that gradually developed into the establishment of St. Michael's Church.

There were a number of people who helped the Lutheran faith in that early day—Dr. Schmauk in his history says "The Falckner brothers, in Philadelphia and at the Swamp, were doing their best to provide for the spiritual interests of these scattered Germans." The Rev. Gerard Henkel came from Germany about 1717 and served the Lutherans at Falckner Swamp and also the people in Germantown. So it would seem that Rev. Henkel was the one who was largely responsible for first organizing St. Michael's into a real Church organization about 1730. He may have been assisted in this work by the Rev. John Casper Stover, an itinerant pastor, as well as some others. The first Church building was started in 1730 and finally completed in 1737. So, when our ancestor, Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) arrived in 1732 there was a church building erected in Germantown in which he could worship. It was John Casper Stover who baptized his first son (John Hesser (2) on March 7th, 1735.

The Rev. John Dylander is generally regarded as the first regularly appointed pastor and he served from 1737 to 1741. The first little German parochial School house was built next to the Church at the corner of Germantown Avenue and Springer Street in 1740.

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<sup>1</sup>Lutheran Church Review, Vol. XVI, pp. 71 and 72.



It was about 1744 that the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg arrived from Germany to be the pastor of the congregations at Philadelphia, New Providence (La Trappe) and New Hanover. His time was so filled that he could only preach at Germantown on ordinary week days. When he came to Germantown, he found, according to his own description, a church building which he calls a "Kirchlein," a small church.

The little village of Germantown at that time numbered about four hundred souls. In 1745 an assistant pastor was sent from Germany to help Rev. Muhlenberg (Rev. Peter Brunnholtz) and for a short time the two pastors interchangeably served Philadelphia, Germantown, Trappe and New Hanover.

The Germantown congregation grew under the able and distinguished leadership of Muhlenberg, so much so, that in 1746 they found it necessary to enlarge the Church. Building operations were begun and the corner stone was laid on April 15th of that year. A marble tablet was erected which bears the following:

Sub Remigio Altissimi  
Templum Hoc Societati  
Augustanae Confessionis Hanc  
Variatae Ejusg. Aeconomiae  
Deditae Dedicatum Ex Ipso  
Fundamento, Est Extractum  
Anno Dom MDCCXLVI  
Regnt. Reg. Magn. Brit. Hiberniae  
Georgii II Vigesimo

"Under the guidance of the Most High, this Church has been built and dedicated for the use of the congregation maintaining the doctrines and principles of the unaltered Augsburg Confession, in the year of our Lord 1746, being the twentieth of the reign of George the Second, King of Great Britain and Ireland."

The Church was consecrated in 1752—later bells were placed in a tower and a pipe organ was provided.

Very soon dissension arose, the harmony of the congregation was greatly disturbed and a split in the church occurred which lasted for some years. After the years of dissention they were united again in 1763 and thus ended one of the darkest periods in the history of old St. Michael's.

During the period of the Revolutionary War St. Michael's suffered severely at the hands of the British. Rev. John Frederick

Schmidt began his pastorate in 1769 and served until 1786 covering the entire period of the War. Just before the British troops occupied Germantown Pastor Schmidt was able to escape with his family. Muhlenberg writes in his diary on January 21, 1778: "We had a welcome visit from our brother, Rev. Schmidt, formerly pastor at Germantown, but for some time without any engagement and a fugitive, his congregation being scattered and deprived of their means of subsistence. Schmidt sojourns with his family at the present time at Upper Milford, in the house of a Jew converted to Christianity and baptized. He narrates to us various dreadful and distressing events."

It seems that while the Germantown battle was on that the British troops took over St. Michael's Church, destroyed the organ and amused themselves "by running about the street and graveyard blowing the pipes." They also ransacked the parsonage destroying all of Rev. Schmid's furniture which he had left when he and his family had escaped. After the battle Rev. Schmidt returned and was able to rally his flock together through encouragement and self-denial. He was a devoted servant of God and was greatly beloved by his church people. Following Rev. Schmidt's pastorate came Rev. John Frederick Weinland and he was followed by Rev. Frederick David Schaeffer. His pastorate was long and successful with the congregation greatly increasing in numbers. During the late years of his ministry on account of a demand on the part of his people he introduced English services into St. Michael's. He was followed in 1812 by Rev. John C. Baker who in 1817 organized the first Sunday School in Germantown. For some time there had been an agitation for a new and larger church to take care of the increased church enrollment. So it was decided to erect a new edifice several hundred feet to the rear of the old church building. The new church was consecrated on November 21, 1819. (Jacob Hesser (3) son of Leonard Hesser (2) was married by Rev. Baker Feb. 5, 1815).

Following the pastorate of Rev. Baker came a number of outstanding ministers, namely, Rev. Benjamin Keller, Rev. John W. Richards, Rev. S. Mosheim Schumucker and Dr. C. W. Schaeffer who bears the distinction of having filled the longest pastorate in the history of St. Michael's—twenty-six years. It was during his pastorate that the present parsonage was built in 1855.

Following Dr. Schaeffer came Rev. F. A. Kaehler and he was succeeded by Rev. John P. Deck. It was during his pastorate that the present fine Sunday School building was erected, the corner-stone being laid in 1886.

Rev. Paul Gerhardt Klinger served the congregation for 1890-1891 and he was succeeded by the Rev. S. A. Ziegenfuss who began his pastorate January 1892. The congregation of St. Michael's again decided that a new church should be built to replace the old one. The corner-stone for the new and beautiful stone church which is standing today was laid on September 6, 1896 and it was consecrated by the pastor May 16, 1897. In 1902 a fine bell and clock was placed in the church tower with appropriate services. The present pastor (1945) is the Rev. W. Karl Hemsath, D.D., who is carrying on the splendid work of the men who through the years preceeded him. In the words of one of the former ministers—"May St. Michael's, with her glorious past, ever continue to increase in every good word and work until her history is merged into the blessed victory of the Church Triumphant."





THE FAMOUS OLD BUCK TAVERN, GERMANTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA  
*"The Sign of the Buck"*

The original homestead of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) and his family, located on Germantown Avenue at Phil-Ellena Street, Mount Airy (now a part of Philadelphia). The old residence later became the popular Buck Tavern or "The Sign or the Buck" and was managed by his sons, John (2), and Leonard (2). It was torn down when Phil-Ellena Street was cut through.

## THE SIGN OF THE BUCK OR THE BUCK TAVERN

GERMANTOWN, PA.

The home of Hessers for nearly a hundred years



JOHANN FRIEDRICH HESSER (1), the emigrant ancestor, who served and was scarred in the German religious wars, is said to have been born in Wittenberg, a town in Prussian Saxony, Germany. Wittenberg has long been famous as the cradle of the Reformation under the leadership of Martin Luther. It was the plan and custom that all German emigrant ships coming to America should be accompanied by a minister or ministers, and so we find on the ship's roster of the *Loyal Judith* arriving in Philadelphia in 1732 and bringing our Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) the name of Johannes Christian Schultz, a well known Lutheran devine. The author has a photostatic copy of the ship's original list of passengers of that early day showing the signature of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1). The original ship list of passengers on the *Loyal Judith* arriving in 1732 is in the archives of the Pennsylvania State Library, Genealogical Department, Harrisburg, Pa.

When Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) arrived in America, he evidently had some means and worldly goods, as he acquired or purchased land in Germantown, Pa., this settlement having already been laid out in lots along what was known as the great Germantown road.

After examining the quaint old map of early Germantown, a copy of which the reader will find in the "History of Old Germantown," it reveals the following:

### Germantown Side-Lots towards Schuylkill<sup>1</sup>

Lot No.	Owner in 1714	Owners in 1766
10	Heivert Papen	John Johnson, Richard Johnson, Hesser, Kast, and others

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<sup>1</sup>From "History of Old Germantown" by Dr. Keyser, C. H. Kain, John Palmer, and Horace F. McCann.

From Penna. German Society—Germantown: "In 1685 came Heivert Papen—he married Elizabeth Rittenhouse, daughter of Wm. Rittenhouse, the first Paper Manufacturer in America.



This lot number ten was a tract of considerable size and evidently contained a number of plots of ground, on one of which Johann Friedrich (1) chose to build his home, which later became known as the "Buck Tavern" or "The Sign of the Buck." In Saur's Germantown Newspaper dated December 16, 1751, there appears this advertisement—"Johann Christoph Ohle, upper end of Germantown, near Frederick Hesser, the baker, sells fur gloves and caps; does all kinds of fur work." This of course helps to establish John Frederick's location as well as his occupation at that time. This old homestead of John Frederick Hesser (1) and his family, which they also used as a bakery and Inn, was located at the upper end of the village on the west side of Germantown Avenue and what is now Phil-Ellena Street, almost across from St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

The early inns and taverns showed a wonderful tenacity for continued existence and service. The author has not discovered the date that "the Buck" was built, (the old Hesser homestead) but John Russell Young lists it "among the famous Philadelphia Inns before the close of the 18th century" and "one of the Inns in existence before 1750."<sup>1</sup> It was torn down when West Phil-Ellena Street (Germantown) was opened about 1900. There were a number of famous old inns and taverns in this locality.

"No. 6239 Main Street, The Washington Tavern, is an old building, and was known by the name as early as 1793. It is the type of a large number of taverns which in the early days lined the Main Street of Germantown. The Buck, Sadler's Arms, Green Tree, Indian King, Indian Queen, Crown and Cushion, Roebuck, Buttonwood, Fountain, Black Horse, White Horse, Lamb, White Lamb, Treaty Elm, and King of Prussia are some of the names of taverns that have now passed away. In the early times, the capacious yard of the Washington Tavern could not accommodate all the teams putting up there for the night, and there would be an overflow row of wagons along the main Street."<sup>2</sup>

The Inn or Tavern in that early day was a very important institution, for it was a place of public entertainment for travelers as well as for people living in that area. "The few records that have

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<sup>1</sup>From the "Memorial History of the City of Philadelphia" Vol. II, Page 130, Edited by John Russell Young.

<sup>2</sup>Guide Book to Historic Germantown. Charles F. Jenkins, 1926.



been preserved show that inn-keeping was an esteemed occupation in early Philadelphia and that many of the early Philadelphians, prominent in affairs, were inn-keepers.”<sup>3</sup> The early American inns played no small part in the history of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Your author has often wondered why the name, “The Sign of the Buck,” was chosen? Whether it was chosen by Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) or by his son John (2) who had charge and owned it until the time of his death in 1793?

“In Colonial times tavern signs in Philadelphia often had a meaning that was applicable to and descriptive of the inn to which it belonged. A modern diner of plated-ware cannot escape the suggestion of homely but abundant fare, conveyed by the device of a pewter platter that gave its name to the Pewter Platter Inn. Even more suggestive of good living, a century later, was the “Goose and Gridiron,” that once invited the wayfarer in Chestnut Street, not far from Clark’s Inn. As a matter of course, the horse was a favorite device on old-time tavern signs, giving their names to many famous inns, as the “White Horse” in Fifth Street, the “Sorrel Horse” in Second Street,—the “Golden Horse” in Market Street. The “Bull’s Head” and the “Black Bear” were names given to a number of Philadelphia taverns, the bull’s head on the sign of John Evan’s inn in Strawberry Street being painted, it was said, by Benjamin West. Even Gilbert Stuart contributed one tavern sign to Philadelphia, the equestrian figure of Frederick the Great for the “Prussian Inn.” Afterward, the landlord had the sign lettered “King of Prussia,” so that the intelligent observer might learn the subject of the artists’ brush. At an early period the picture signs were often very quaint.”<sup>1</sup>

In an article printed in the *Philadelphia Record* about 1890 appears a photograph of “the Buck” tavern. The large tavern sign shows a front view of a great buck with antlers, standing erect and very formidable looking. The picture was taken in 1882. The newspaper reads as follows: “Do you remember the Buck Hotel in Germantown? It stood on the west side of Germantown Avenue, near West Phil-Ellena Street for more than one hundred years. A few years ago the old building was torn down to make room for improvements. Few places in these parts had a higher reputation for whole-

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>1</sup>Memorial History of Philadelphia Vol. II, P. 127. Edited by John Russell Young.

some feasting than "the Buck." It was a great resort for Philadelphians as well as for traveler folks who came to the city by the Germantown Road."<sup>2</sup>

During a part of the author's summer vacation (1944) he spent considerable time reviewing old books, newspapers, and going through histories and old records that might throw more light on the early activities of the Hesser family. The following items pertaining to the Buck Tavern and the Hesser family who operated it are quoted for the reader's information. They all go to show the important place the Buck tavern occupied in the Community as well as the Hesser families who maintained it.

There were many celebrations in Philadelphia from 1794 to the close of the century over George Washington and the cause of liberty and the Buck tavern was a popular place, as the four Hesser brothers (sons of Johann Friedrich, the emigrant), John, George, Leonard and Frederick, had all served in the Revolution. "On the 4th of July, 1794, the second company of Artillery (Militia), Capitain Guy, dined at the Buck Tavern in the neck."<sup>1</sup>

Another item of interest says "Governor McKean was assailed on account of his participation as Grand Sachem at the anniversary celebration of the St. Tammany Society, which was held May 12, 1800, at the Buck Tavern."<sup>3</sup>

The Pennsylvania Gazette of June 4, 1788, says "Sheriffs Sale, June 4, 1788, at the house of John Hesser, Innholder, at the Sign of the Buck, in Germantown."

*The Pennsylvania Gazette*, December 8, 1779

"Notice of the day of appeal for the first Continental Tax for 1779. For Germantown, Manor of Moreland and Abington townships, on Saturday 18th (January) at the house of John Hesser, in Germantown."

*The Penna. Packet*, April 26, 1783

*The Penna. Gazette*, April 16, 1783

"Notice in accordance with Militia laws to the male white inhabitants of said county between ages of 18 and 53  
- - - the habitants of the townships of Germantown, Roxborough, Bristol and Springfield to form one battalion and

<sup>1</sup>History of Philadelphia Vol. I, Scharf, Wescott. Page 491.

<sup>2</sup>The Philadelphia Record (Clipping, Germantown Historical Society)

<sup>3</sup>History of Philadelphia, Vol. I, Page 504, Scharf, Wescott.



hold their election at the house of John Hesser in Germantown township on the 23rd inst., William Coats, Lieut. P. C."

*Claypool's Advertiser*, Nov. 3, 1797

*Philadelphia's Gazette*, Nov. 1, 1797

"Charitable donations, list of Germantown subscribers (Yellow Fever)" along with others are listed

Leonard Hesser ----- 11 S, 3

George Hesser ----- 16 S, 6

*Pennsylvania Gazette*, Jan. 26, 1774

"Was found, sometime in May, 1773, between the five and eight-mile stones, on the Germantown Road, a leather apron for a chaise or chair, lined with Sagathy. Whoever hath lost the same, by applying to John Hesser, Innkeeper, at Germantown, proving their property and paying charges may have it again."

"*History of Old Germantown*," P. 103-104—Keyser, Kain, Garber, McCann.

"Volunteer fire department organization formed in 1764. Many of the best citizens joined. John Hesser, listed as contributing to the buying of the Shag Rag (fire-engine)"

"Visitors should see the Shag Rag, the old hand engine belonging to the Middle Ward Fire Company, which is now carefully preserved by the Insurance company in their office. It was imported from England in 1764. Water was carried to it in leather buckets, of which each member kept two hanging in his hallway ready for instant service. Three or four men standing on each side of the engine and working the handles up and down idustriously could throw a stream of half an inch in diameter a distance of fifty feet or more."<sup>1</sup>

*The Germantown Telegraph*, March 28, 1843

#### DEATH NOTICE

"Martha Magdalena Hesser, 100 years old, 11 months, 14 days, March 28, 1843, at her boarding house, opposite the Buck Tavern, Germantown; daughter of John Mayer, born in Germany, April 14, 1742; came to Germantown with her parents in 1749; at the age of 19 she married Leonard Hesser; a few years later they took the Buck tavern, the most frequented tavern in Germantown; for a time they also conducted a bakery at the tavern. Leonard Hesser died in 1807; the widow continued the tavern until 1824, but discontinued the bakery. She sold the tavern in 1826; was

<sup>1</sup>Guide Book of Historic Germantown. C. F. Jenkins. P. 74.



vigorous until 90 years old; no children survive her and only three grandchildren; burial at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, where she is a member."

(Some of the above dates regarding her handling of the Buck tavern are in error. E. G. H.)

Book—"Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill" by S. F. Hotchkin. Page 242

#### "THE BUCK TAVERN"

"Mrs. Barbara Roop, who had charge of this old stone hotel kept it for 47 years. Her husband's name was George, but she did not assume the hotel until she was a widow. She died in October of 1886, age 84, and is buried in St. Michael's churchyard. She was kind and esteemed in the neighborhood. There were several who kept this hotel before it came into the hands of Mrs. Roop. John Amy was one of these. George Hocker owned the property years ago, but it now belongs to the Carpenter estate. Years before Mrs. Roop's entrance on her duties, Mrs. Madeline Hesser (Magdalena), a widow, was the hostess for fifty years; so that the combined occupancy of Mrs. Hesser and Mrs. Roop covered nearly one hundred years."

*Journal of Elizabeth Drinker*, Edited by Henry D. Biddle, 1889.

She refers to Hesser's tavern, the Buck, several places in her diary "as an old stopping place in upper Germantown." She wrote a part of her Journal while living one summer season in the George Hesser (2) house on Germantown Avenue in 1793 at the time of the terrible yellow fever epidemic.

It will be of interest to the reader to review some of the entries made in the famous Journal of Elizabeth Drinker that refer to the Buck Tavern. Elizabeth, her husband, Henry Drinker, and her family, (Quakers), had their residence in Philadelphia and lived through the stirring years of the Revolution. Here are a few excerpts from her Journal.

1793

John Hampston dined with us. He came to Philad<sup>a</sup> on sixth day last, in a pilot boat from Ye Capes, where ye vessel he came in from Liverpool was aground. Could not get a lodging, and stayed in ye Court-House. Came on seventh day to John Fields, to whom he is recommended; he brought

him this morning to Germantown to meeting, and left him with Henry Drinker to get him a lodging, which he has done, at Hesser's tavern, a little below us.

(This was during the yellow fever epidemic.)

1798

October 5.

After H. D. had settled what he had to do in Germantown, we set off for Downingtown. The road across from Germantown over Ritter's Ferry to the turnpike is, in my view, very bad; H. D. thought otherwise. We dined at the Buck—met Aaron Levy there—staid too long, as we baited again at ye Paoli; passed through several turnpike gates—the first I have ever seen, and came to Jacob Downings just at candlelight.

November 5.

We came to the Buck between one and two; dined with a large company there. Left them before three, and arrived at home between four and five. We are once more favored to be at home altogether, in usual health.

November 9.

General Washington is expected in this city today.

November 10.

General Washington arrived this forenoon.

1799

September 1.

First day. After dressing my husband's wrist, eating a little breakfast, I prepared to depart with J. Downing. Bid farewell, and got into ye carriage with a degree of palpitation about 9 o'clock. We stopped at ye Buck to give ye horses water, but did not alight. Baited the horses at one Kennedys, a little after 12—some townfolks there. Stayed near an hour—then proceeded near ye 14th milestone.

1802

July, 15.

Great talk of the yellow fever—many moving out of town.

1802

August 9.

About 11 o'clock H. D., W. D., and myself set off in J. Downings carriage—his black Harry drove. Paul S. Brown, who has been in our office near 3 years, went to his fathers. About an hour after us J. D., M. S., S. Dawson, Rosanna and Peter, left home in our wagon. Peter's



father took our dog Tartar home with him, and promised to be kind to him. Our neighbor Lee has engaged to take care of the cat. We arrived about one o'clock at ye Buck, 10 or 11 miles from home—baited the horses there. Irsael Whelen and family are there. Aaron Levy and wife are also boarders there. The old women, A. L.'s wife has the prettiest little dog I ever saw. We came to the Paoli—Robersons, where we dined—cold tongue, bacon, a dish of tea, and a bottle of porter. Left ye Paoli between 4 and 5, arrived at Downingtown a little after sunset.

(Many people left the city on account of the yellow fever.)  
November 3.

We left Downingtown between 8 and 9 o'clock. Did not bait till we came to ye Buck between 1 and 2—where we dined. We met Joseph Moore and wife there on their way to the city. We left ye Buck about 2 o'clock.

From all of the foregoing documented evidence it would seem that Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) the emigrant ancestor, a religious man, a man of thrift and having some means at his disposal, arrived in the young settlement of Germantown where both he and his wife Catharina and his growing family took an active part in the varied developments of the town. He possibly built the gray stone house for his home shortly after he arrived and later it became known as the Buck tavern. From old pictures examined by the writer and information given by descendants of the family, it was a large house, built facing Germantown Avenue with a long wing built at the rear. It was constructed in the typical early Pennsylvania Dutch style of architecture, two stories, with an ample attic and with two beautiful dormer windows facing the street. The windows had twelve panes of glass and fine old shutters. The walls were thick and the interior woodwork as well as the lath and beams were of oak. It probably contained from twenty to twenty-five rooms. Undoubtedly in the early days there was an ample stable at the rear for the accommodations and use of guests stopping at the Inn.

Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) arrived in Philadelphia, Sept. 25, 1732, at the age of twenty-five and his wife was Anna Maria Catharina Hofman. Their first child, Johannes (2) was born 1734 or 1735, then came Frederick about 1736, Catharina in 1737, Leonard in 1739, Mary in 1743, Rachel in 1744, George in 1747 and Christiana in 1750. As far as can be ascertained eight children were born between the years of 1733 and 1750.



Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) the emigrant, a man of importance in the community, was a busy person, looking after his large, growing family and carrying on the bakery business. Just when he opened his home as an Inn is not definitely known but probably before 1750. Johann Friedrich (1) died in 1763 and was buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Churchyard almost across the street from his home and place of business. The oldest son Johannes (2) took up his father's business of Bakery and Innkeeping and judging from his will, he too, was a successful innkeeper. **1548727**

Johannes (2) never married. He made the Buck tavern a live, important institution in the community and built up its popularity and esteem in the countryside round about Germantown. He, rather than his father, was known as the Innkeeper.

While Johannes (2) never married and had no family it would seem that his brother Leonard (2) and possibly George (2) with their families and possibly some of his sisters, lived with him at the Buck Tavern for awhile.

Frederick Hesser (2), born about 1736, brother of John (2) the innkeeper and next to the oldest child in the family, a saddler, purchased land in Upper Providence township, now Montgomery County, Pa. on the great Maxatowny Road. In 1786 he sold the land to his nephews, George and Benjamin Gorgas, Millers, in Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County. There seems to be no further record of him in Philadelphia County. So it is not likely that Frederick (2) and his family lived at the tavern.

The census of 1790 for the State of Pennsylvania shows John Hesser (2) in Germantown having 5 males over 16, 1 male under 16, and 5 females. Since John (2) had no family of his own these must have been his relatives living at the Buck Tavern, the old Hesser homestead. John (2) the innkeeper, died September 13, 1793, aged 59 years, and was buried in the graveyard of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, in Germantown. He wrote a will, dated September 14, 1792, which was probated three days later, September 17, in which he names himself as an Innholder, and names his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, as beneficiaries. The will discloses that he was a thrifty business man, following well in the footsteps of his father.

John (2) willed the Buck tavern to his nephew, George Hesser (3), son of his brother Leonard (2), "to be given to him when he

reaches the age of 25, when he shall pay to the Executors 400 pounds. If he should die before 25, the bequest goes to his brother Jacob (3); if both die or fail to pay, then the property to be sold and revert to the estate."

George Hesser (3) son of Leonard Hesser (2) who inherited the Buck Tavern was sixteen years of age when his Uncle John (2) died. It would seem that Leonard Hesser (2) and his wife Magdalena took over the management of 'the Buck' after John (2) died. For some years they carried on both the tavern and the bakery. In 1807 Leonard (2) died and his widow Magdalena continued the tavern until 1825.

In the Philadelphia Deed Book GWR 5, P. 535 appears the following deed: "April 1, 1800, George Hesser the elder, (Note, he was the brother of John Hesser (2) the innkeeper) Germantown township, Philadelphia County, and George Summer, town and county of Northumberland, Pa., executors of John Hesser (2), innholder, late of Germantown township, to George Hesser (3) the younger, Germantown, hatter; consideration 400 pounds; message and one acre on the southwest side of Germantown Great Road, "in accordance with the terms of John Hesser's (2) will."

This deed of the Buck Tavern to George Hesser (3) the younger, was not recorded until September 24, 1825. George Hesser (3) the younger who inherited "the Buck" in 1800 or 1801 according to the will of his uncle John (2) died August 21st, 1814. Nothing was done to settle his estate until eleven years after his death. Jacob Hesser (3) (brother of George Hesser (3) (the younger) and a son of Leonard (2) originally appointed administrator also died Nov. 22, 1822 resulting in the appointment of a Jacob Haas to succeed him as administrator.

After the death of Leonard Hesser (2) in 1807 his wife Magdalena, and undoubtedly with the aid of her two sons, while they lived, George (3) and Jacob (3), carried on the business of the bakery and the Inn until 1825.

In Philadelphia Deed book AWM 73, P. 197, is recorded the following: "Sept. 24, 1825, Jacob Haas, Administrator of the estate of George Hesser (3), late of the county of Philadelphia, deceased, sold the tavern site to George Martin for \$2300.50." The deed recites that "George Hesser in his lifetime was lawfully seized of the one-acre lot with a two-story stone stable." (The Tavern is not mentioned.)



Jacob Haas presented a petition to the Orphans Court August 19, 1825, setting forth that "the said George Hesser (3) died intestate, without issue, and without having any personal estate to pay his debts." He was the owner of the one-acre plot described, and the Court was asked to authorize its sale. The Court did so, and it was offered at public vendue September 15, 1825. Dr. George Martin was the highest bidder and the Court sanctioned the transfer to him. In December, 1826, Dr. Martin sold the property to Christopher Mason, gentleman, for \$2300.50. The deed stated that it had a frontage of four perches, seven feet, four inches, on Germantown Great Road. Christopher Mason bequeathed this real estate to George Hocker, and his heirs. He later sold the Inn to the Carpenter estate.

George W. Carpenter, who bought the Buck tavern property in 1848, bought up all of the real estate on the southwest side of Germantown Avenue, for a block north of Phil-Ellena Street and extending back a mile. Here he established a magnificent estate called Phil-Ellena. After his death his holdings were cut up and became sites for high-class dwellings, the region being called Pelham. The Carpenter estate still owns much real estate thereabouts, but the Phil-Ellena Mansion was demolished in later years of the nineteenth century. Evidently the Buck Tavern was leased to tenants as long as it stood.

So, this fine old hostelry, "The Sign of the Buck," one of the most frequented taverns in Germantown, a purveyor of fine food and hospitality, a community center for many years, in the hands of the Hesser family for nearly a century, passes out of the historic picture to make way for oncoming progress. When West Phil-Ellena Street was cut through to Germantown Avenue, the old Tavern was in the way and was torn down.





THE CONCORD SCHOOL  
Germantown, Pennsylvania

The first English schoolhouse erected in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1775, attended by Hesser children, built through the help of Hesser families, and named by its builders after the battle of Concord as an expression of patriotism.

## THE CONCORD SCHOOL

The first English school in Germantown, Philadelphia, attended by Hesser children and built with the help of Hesser families.



TABLET which was placed on the front of the Old Concord School building by the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, Philadelphia, in 1904 reads as follows:

“The Concord Schoolhouse erected by private subscription in 1775 and named by its builders after the battle of Concord as an expression of patriotism.”

A hand bill was distributed to the town's people of Germantown on April 27, 1775, which reads as follows:

“—To the Inhabitants of Germantown:

Whereas, it appears from repeated Expresses, that have arrived at Philadelphia, that the King's Forces and the Bostonians were in actual engagement, which makes it highly incumbent for Persons who have any Regard for their Country, their Liberty and Property, to meet and enter on such Measures as may be a Means to avert the impending Ruin that threatens our Country, and it is hoped that every friend to America, Freeholders and others, will attend at the Union school-house<sup>1</sup> in said Town, on Monday, the First Day of May next, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, to enter on such measures as may seem most proper in the present emergency.”

While it was true that there were Tories in Germantown and those who refused “for conscience's sake” to come out of their cellars and fight for their country, yet we cannot for one moment think of the people of Germantown as being unpatriotic who would issue such a call as stated above. Patriotism was strong in the hearts of the people during those trying days and how could they better honor the deeds and memory of patriots than by naming the little new school house—Concord.

During the month of August, 1945, your author had the pleasure of looking through the little old leather-bound book (the Minute

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<sup>1</sup>The Union School was the Germantown Academy, founded in 1760.



book) which contains the minutes and proceedings of the Concord school board. It is now one of the prized possessions of the Germantown Historical Society. This record book, now one hundred and seventy years old, begins the first entry as follows:

"Be it hereby remembered that whereas a number of the inhabitants of the upper end of Germantown, taking into consideration the distance and particular inconvenience through the winter seasons of sending their children to the Lower School, and seeing the number of children continually increasing, and the rooms rented for the schools in that neighborhood mostly too small and inconvenient. When the building of a school house in that part of town was purposed by way of subscription: In consequence whereof a meeting was appointed in order to obtain the voice of the people in that part of the town for the purpose aforesaid. When agreeable to the appointment a number of the inhabitants met on the Twenty-fourth day of March, 1775, in order to promote the building and erecting a convenient school house, and establishing an English school in that part of the town. When the plan of the house and the spot of ground was unanimously agreed upon, being that part of the Burying Ground Lot at the Upper End of Germantown, formerly intended for that purpose by one Paul Wolf, the original grantor of the said Burying Ground Lot, and in order therefore that the said building might be carried on expeditiously, Jacob Engle, Peter Keyser, Peter Leibert and Jacob Knorr were unanimously chosen to be the Managers of the said building, (by whom) it was carried on, and nearly completed by the latter end of October, the same year fit for school, which was first opened and kept by John Grimes, Schoolmaster."

Then follows a list of one hundred and twenty-two names, citizens of Germantown, who contributed to the building of the school and the amount that each contributed. Along with such prominent citizens as, Michael Billmeyer, Benjamin Chew, John Gorgas, Sr., John Grimes, John Johnson, Sr., John Johnson, Jr., Christopher Ludwig, Daniel Pastorius, Parson Weinland and others, appears

John Hesser -----	1 pound 10 shilling
John Hesser (saddler) -----	5 shilling
Leonard Hesser -----	10 shilling
George Hesser -----	15 shilling
(John Hesser, saddler, evidently was John Frederick 2)	



Here we proudly observe the four sons of the emigrant ancestor, Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), making their contributions of money to the building of the first English schoolhouse in Germantown. They realized the importance of education not only for their children, but for the community in which they lived. It makes us feel today that our early ancestors were not only interested in the Church, but in the school and home as well—the three great pillars of society. Undoubtedly the children of John Hesser (2) Saddler, Leonard (2) and George (2) attended the Concord School as it was located near the Hesser homes.

John Hesser (2) who was the innkeeper, never married. He thus shows his fine public spirit in contributing to the school building fund even though he had no children.

In the early days the education of the Germantown children was for many years taken care of by the pastors and ministers of each church or sect. The teaching done was in the language of the Fatherland, which was the practice followed in all German Communities, and this, of course, gave serious concern to the Crown. Considerable sums of money were raised in England to educate the children of the various Colonies in the English language, but the German people would not accept it and it was not until the English speaking folk settled among the German folk and their children grew up together that the prejudice was dissolved.

So, on the east side of number 6309, Germantown Avenue, standing next to the Upper Burying Ground is the old Concord Schoolhouse built in 1775 to accommodate the upper residents of the village.

The Concord school was built at a cost of 243 pounds, 1 shilling, 2 pence, which was subscribed by the liberal minded people. It was used for school purposes for over one hundred years. The school was first only a one story-and-a-half building, but in the year 1818 the people added a second story to the schoolhouse. It was said by Abraham H. Cassel that the Concord school was named for the Concord Cemetary, the name which was given the Upper Burying ground which joined the school. This graveyard was open for burial to all inhabitants of any creed or faith with a hope that they could sleep together in "Sweet Concord." It may have been named Concord because the first German people came to America on the ship "Concord," but I should like to think that it was their feeling of patriotism

for those Minute men and patriots at Concord and Lexington, who in 1775 fired the shots heard around the world.

The War of the Revolution had its effect on the establishing of the Concord school as the old Minute book reveals nothing for eight long years. Then the work of the school was taken up and we find the following entries on the minutes:

"Be it hereby further remembered that a number of the contributors to the said Concord schoolhouse met at the said school-house agreeable to an appointment on the Fifteenth day of April, 1783, in order to choose Trustees for the said school, and agree upon and stipulate the authority of the Trustees in the management of the school therein to be kept, and also to fix the annual elections hereafter to be held for choosing Trustees, annually, for the said school. Which was unanimously agreed upon in the manner following, that is to say, viz:

"First, that the contributors who have already subscribed or may hereafter contribute to the value or sum of fifteen shillings or upwards, either to the use of the said building or to the repairs thereof, shall be entitled to the right of voting or be voted Trustees for the said school.

"Secondly, that the Trustees shall be chosen annually by ballot on Whitsuntide Monday, between the hours of two and five o'clock in the afternoon by the contributors so entitled as aforesaid, and that the number of the said Trustees shall be at least five, and no more than seven.

"Thirdly, that the said Trustees or a majority of them shall be empowered and authorized to choose and agree with school masters from time to time for the said school, and upon the reasonable cause to them appearing to dismiss and discharge them, and to dismiss unruly scholars who shall not submit to the orderly rules of the said school.

"Fourthly, that at least three of the said Trustees shall visit and inspect the said school and school-house once in every quarter.

"And conclusively Jacob Engle, Peter Keyser, Peter Leibert, Jacob Knorr, John Johnson, Jr., and Winard Nice were duly chosen to be the Trustees of the school for the ensuing space of time between said Fifteenth day of April and the annual day of election."

Nearly every annual meeting and election of Trustees is carefully recorded in the Minute Book from 1783, as well as all of the expenditures for school supplies, salaries and repairs and improvements for the building and grounds.

The Concord school, after closing its doors to pupils of the neighborhood whom it had served for over a hundred years, opened them to a number of clubs and societies. The Charter Oak Library occupies at the present time the second floor. Here also convened the Hiram Lodge of Free Masons and here also was organized in 1853, the Junior Order United American Mechanics. This same order has raised an endowment fund for the preservation of the school-house. For a number of years the Site and Relic Society of Germantown held its meetings here. Many patriotic assemblies and meetings have held forth in this historic old building. Every morning, on July 4th at five o'clock, the school bell is tolled one stroke for each year of our independence. It was at the rear of the building that severe fighting occurred during the Revolutionary battle of Germantown.

So we bring to the attention of the many members of this Hesser family the fact that these first Hessers in Germantown stood out prominently for public education in their community.

Last summer your author paid a visit to the old school-house and walked about the school yard—there was not a crack in the walls, not a stone out of place: the sill I noted at the doorway entrance was worn, undoubtedly by the feet of our ancestors and friends who will never return, but whose memories linger on and are dear to us.

“The same old stones are in the wall;  
The bell swings to and fro;  
Its music just the same, dear friends,  
'Twas many years ago.”





THE TOHICKON CHURCH

The Old Tohickon Church of Keelersville, Bucks country, Pa., founded in 1743. It was here that Frederick Hesser (2) and Catharine Doll were married, Oct. 12, 1760. This is the third church to be built on this site.

*Johann Friedrich Hesser*

SIGNATURE OF JOHANN FRIEDRICH HESSER (1)

A photostatic copy of his signature as he signed his name on the ship's list of passengers of the Loyal Judith, Sept. 25, 1732. The original ship's list is in the Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHANN FRIEDRICH  
HESSER (1)

JOHN (2)

FREDERICH (2)

LEONARD (2)

GEORGE NICHOLAS (2)



IF the reader will study the chart he will see that Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), the original ancestor of this particular Hesser family, had four sons, these sons represent the second generation. Throughout this genealogy, the number following the name, in parentheses, represents his generation in descent from the founder of the particular branch to which he belongs. The number preceding a name indicates the individuals place in his parents family.

Beginning with Johann Friedrich (1), the original ancestor, each of his son's family-line will be traced through, starting with the first son, John (2), then Frederick (2), then Leonard (2) and George Nicholas (2). It possibly should be stated that Johann Friedrich (1) also had four daughters, but their lines are not traced—only the male Hesser lines are followed through.

The direct descendants in the male lines have their names printed in capitals.

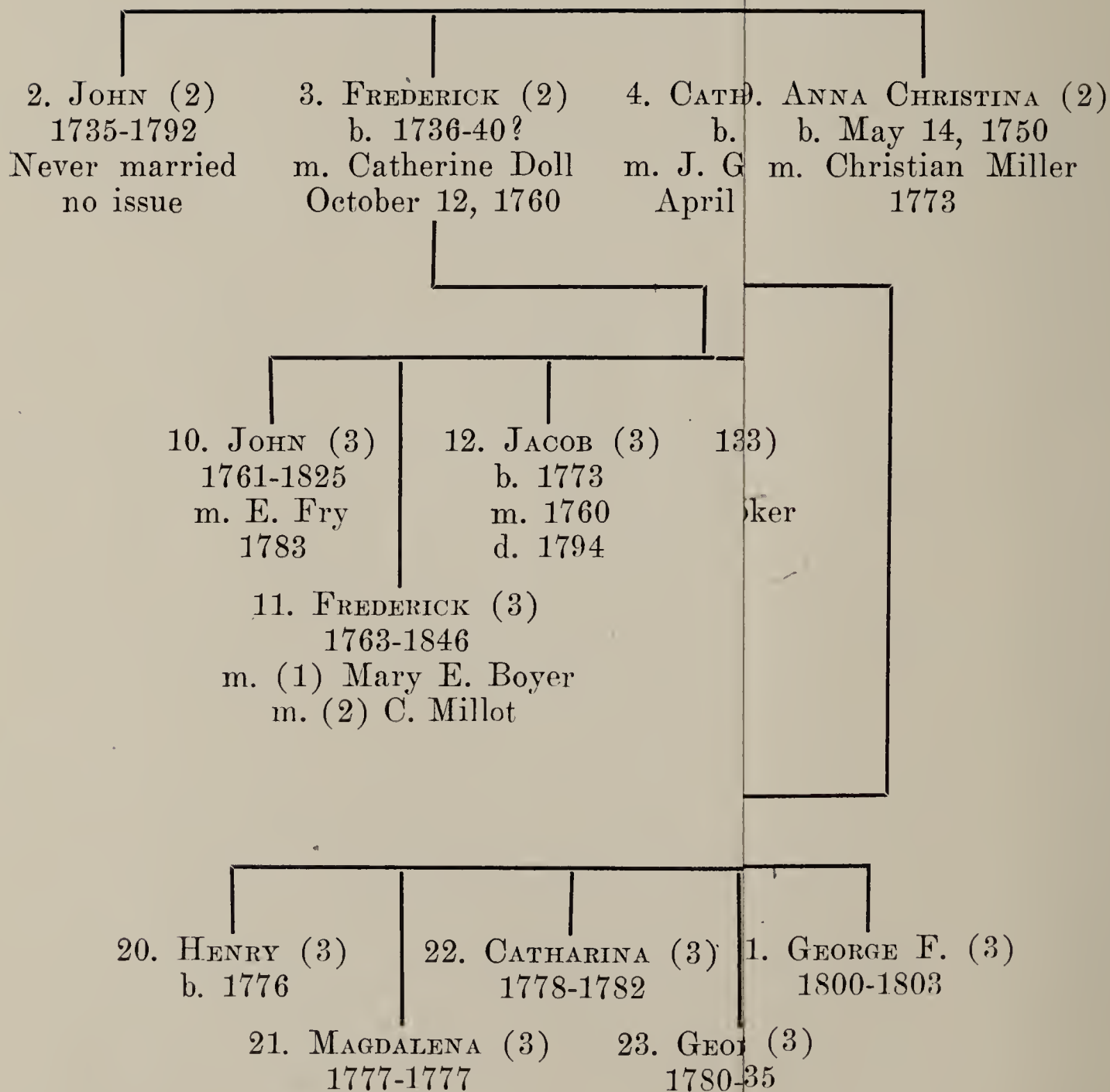
Throughout this genealogical section of the book, the reader will note that following the historical sketches of the early Hessers, there will be listed the heading "References." This list of reference material is to verify and document statements made in the text and also for the reader's information so that he may know where to find more material along his particular family-line, should he so desire.

The reader will also note that certain abbreviations have been used for words that are constantly in use, such as: b. for born, d. for died, m. for married, bap. for baptized, and bur. for buried.

The family chart for Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) on the opposite page, has, as far as research will disclose, been worked out for three generations. In the genealogy which follows it carries through all of the male Hesser lines who married and had families and could be located, on down to the present generation. In some cases (as in the writer's own family) the ninth generation from Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) has been reached.







## JOHANN FRIEDRICH HESSER (1)

1708-1763

1. JOHANN FRIEDRICH HESSER (1) was born in Germany, probably in Wittenburg, Feb. 6, 1708; he died July 3, 1763 in Germantown, Pa., age 55 years, according to the grave stone still standing in good condition in St. Michaels Lutheran Cemetery in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

The tombstone inscription reads as follows:

Hier Ruhen die  
Gebeine des Johann  
Friedrich Hesser  
Geborhren Anno 1708  
den 6 Feb. Geftorbe  
Anno 1763 den 3 July.

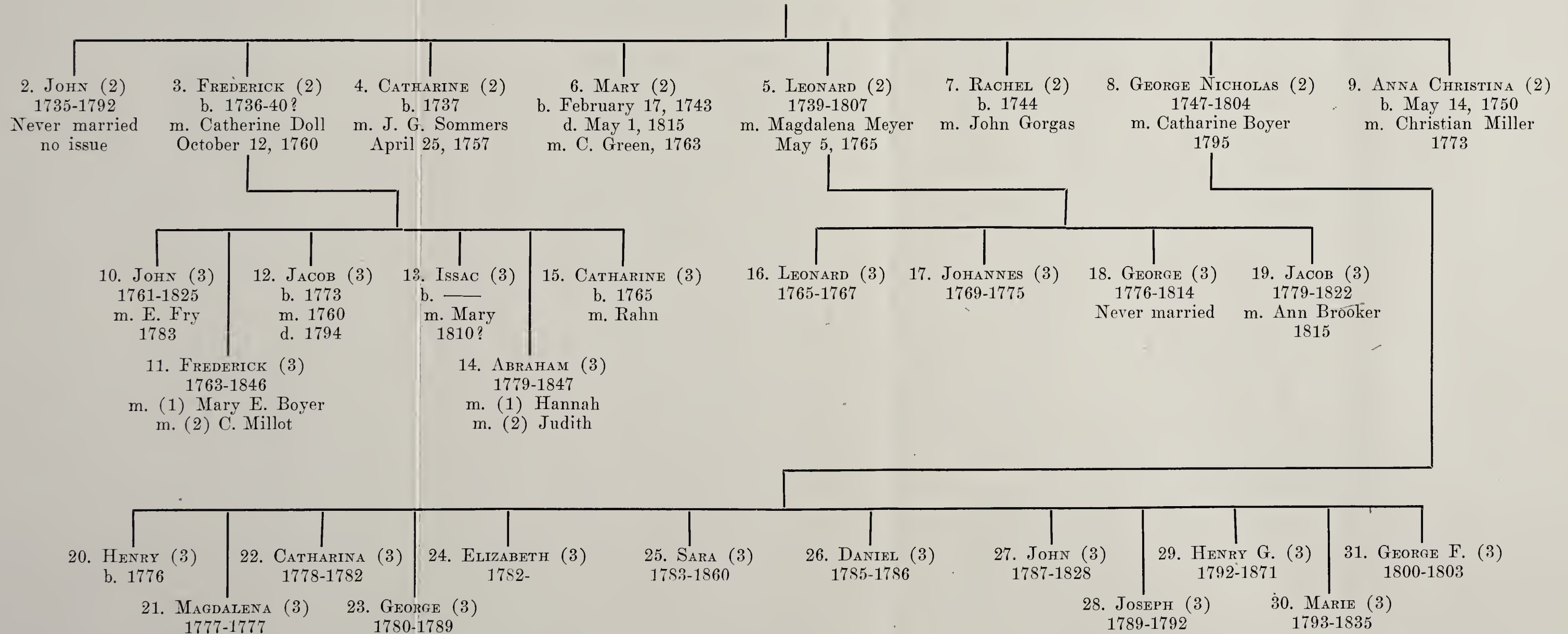
His parentage is unknown, but tradition has it that he came to America seeking religious liberty for he had experienced persecution through the religious wars in Germany. He arrived in Philadelphia on the ship *Loyal Judith*, Sept. 5, 1732 at the age of twenty-five. He very soon built his home on what is now Germantown Avenue, just across the street from St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pa. He married Anna Maria Catharina Hofman about 1734. Johann Friedrich (1) was a baker and carried on his bakery shop in his home. This home later became famous as the Buck Tavern or "The Sign of the Buck." Here he lived and worked and raised his family. He was a member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church and he died intestate.

It would seem that his oldest son John (2), took over the managing of the bakery and the Buck Tavern with possibly his brothers assisting for awhile after the death of the father. John (2) became the owner of the Hesser homestead (the Buck Tavern) as his will discloses.

As far as research can disclose, eight children, four boys and four girls, were born to Frederick (1) and his wife Catharina—there may have been more.



1. JOHANN FRIEDRICH HESSER (1)  
b. February 6, 1708, Wittenburg, Germany  
d. July 3, 1763, Germantown, Penna.  
m. Anna Maria Catharina Hofman, 1734  
Bur. St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



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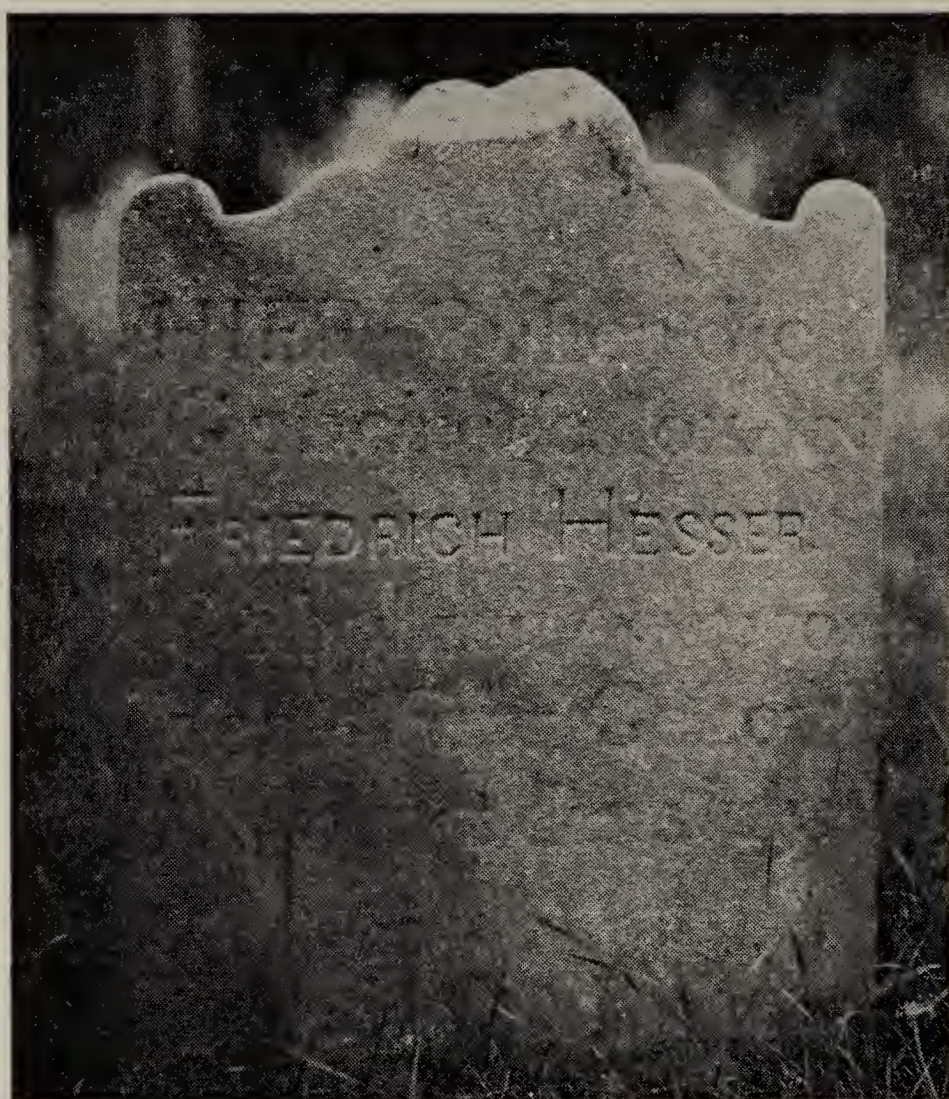
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TOMBSTONE OF JOHANN FRIEDRICH HESSER (1)

This Tombstone of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), marks his grave in St. Michael's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The name Friedrich Hesser, in Latin letters, is quite clear, having been recut in recent years. The remainder of the inscription, in German letters, is not so legible. The inscription reads:

*Heir Ruhen die  
Gebeine des Johann  
Friedrich Hesser  
Gebohren Anno 1708  
den 6 Febr. Gestorbe  
Anno 1763 den 3 July*



*Issue:* all were born in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

2. JOHN (2), b. 1734 or 35; d. Sept. 13, 1792. Innkeeper, never married.
3. FREDERICK (2), b. 1736; a saddler, m. Catharine Doll, Oct. 12, 1760.
4. CATHARINA (2), b. 1737; m. Joh. George Sommers, Apr. 25, 1757.
5. LEONARD (2), b. Jan. 29, 1739; d. Aug. 29, 1807; m. Magdalena Mayer.
6. MARY (2), b. Feb. 17, 1743; d. May 1, 1815; m. 1763 Christopher Green.
7. RACHEL (2), b. 1744; m. John Gorgas, issue George and Benjamin, probably others (Rachel was his second wife). Bur. at Dunkard Church, Germantown.
8. GEORGE NICHOLAS (2), b. May 7, 1747, d. Nov. 17, 1804; m. Catharine Boyer.
9. CHRISTIANA (2), b. May 14, 1750; m. Wigand Miller, June 6, 1773.

References:

Biographical sketches for the above will be found in this text.

Revolutionary War records for John (2), Frederick (2), Leonard (2) and George Nicholas (2) will be found in Pennsylvania Records.

Records of Hesser family in St. Michaels Lutheran Church, Germantown, Pa.

Further historical data regarding Johann Friedrich (1) found in chapters regarding the Buck Tavern and Germantown and St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

## JOHN HESSER (2)

1735-1792

2. JOHN HESSER (2), INNKEEPER, b. 1735, Germantown, Pa.; d. Sept. 13, 1792; buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery, Germantown. John (2) was baptized in Germantown, March 7, 1735, by the Rev. John Casper Stover, an itinerant pastor, John Frederick Haas, sponsor. John (2) was a militiaman of Philadelphia County, in the U. S. Service. He was in the fourth class, Captain Jacob Peterman's 4th Company, Upper North Providence, Philadelphia County, Associators and Militia.

He served his country well through the difficult years of the Revolutionary War and was the successful proprietor of the Buck Tavern (The Sign of the Buck), Germantown, Pa., now part of Philadelphia. The Buck Tavern was the original home of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), his father.

He wrote a will dated September 4th, 1792, which was probated September 17, 1792 in which he names himself, Innholder, and also names his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews as beneficiaries, as he never married. This will has greatly aided your author in establishing this first Hesser family in America and for that reason he has deemed it important enough to quote in its entirety. Your author has secured from the Register of Wills, Philadelphia, Pa., a photostatic copy of the original will which is herewith given:

### THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JOHN HESSER (2)

DECEASED, DATED SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1792

*"IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN*—I John Hesser of Germantown Township in the County of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, *INNHOLDER* being sick and weak of Body but of sound mind memory and understanding thanks be given unto God therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all Men once to Dye do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say—Principally and first of all I give and Recommend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and for my Body I Recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and

decent manner at the discretion of my Executors herein after named—nothing but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty Power of God and as touching such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I give devise bequeath and dispose of the same in the following manner—*IMPRIMIS* it is my will and I do order that in the first place all my Just Debts and Funeral Charges be fully paid and Satisfied by my Executors. *ITEM* I give and devise my Messuage and Lot of Land whereon I now dwell unto my Brother Leonard Hesser's Oldest son namely George Hesser with the Appurtenances to be delivered up unto him when he doth arrive to the full age of Twenty-five Years he at the same time paying into the hands of my Executors or the Survivor of them for the use of my other Legatees the sum of Four hundred Pounds Current Gold or Silver Money of the State aforesaid and on the Receipt of the said Sum of Four hundred Pounds aforesaid I do order that my Executors or the Survivor of them or the Executors or Administrators of them shall and do Sign Seal execute and deliver unto the said George Hesser Son of my said Brother Leonard a good and Sufficient Deed of Conveyance for the said Messuage and Lot of Land with the Appurtenances in Fee Simple which said deed shall be as available and stand as good in Law to all intents and purposes as if I myself had executed the same in my Life Time And it is my will and I do order That if the said George Hesser do happen to die under the age aforesaid or doth neglect to pay the said sum of Four Hundred Pounds at the time aforesaid then and in any of the Cases so happening I give and devise the said Messuage and Lot of Land with the Appurtenances unto Jacob Hesser Brother of the said George and son of my said Hesser Brother of the said George and son of my said Brother Leonard Hesser to be delivered up unto him by my Executors at the said age of Twenty five Years Provided he pay unto them or the Survivor of them the aforesaid Sum of Four hundred Pounds like—Money aforesaid for the Uses aforesaid with the aforesaid Authorities to Convey the said Premises unto him in Fee simple And it is my will and I do further Order and direct that if both of my said Brother's Sons the said George and Jacob Hesser do happen to dye under the age aforesaid or refuse or neglect to make payment aforesaid them and if so happening I do authorize my Executors or Survivor of them their Executors or Administrators to sell the said



Messuage and Lot of land with the Appurtenances either by Publick or Private sale and the Monies arising from such sale to be divided among my Legatees in manner herein after directed and to make good and Sufficient Deed or Deeds to the purchaser or purchasers in manner aforesaid. *ITEM* it is my will and I do order that as soon as convenient after my decease that my Executors or the Survivors of them their Executors or Administrators do sell either by publick or private Sale All my lot of land Situate in Cheltenham Township in the County of Montgomery containing fifteen acres and an half more or less and Bounded by Lands of Joseph Miller and others And all my lot of land situate in Germantown Township afores. Bounded by land of John Johnson Containing near four Acres more or less for the best price that can Reasonably be gotten And I do hereby authorize them or the Survivor of them their Executors or Administrators to make good and Sufficient Deed or Deeds of Conveyance to the Purchaser or Purchasers of the said Lots of Land Respectively in fee Simple which said Deed or Deeds shall be as available and stand as good in Law to all intents and purposes as if I myself had executed the same in my Life Time. *ITEM* It is my will and I do order that my Malt Mill with Tub and Appurtenances be left on the first mentioned Lot of Land and shall not be considered as movable. *ITEM* it is also my will and I do order that all my Personal Estate (accept my wearing apparel) shall be appraised and sold at Vendue in one Month after my decease and the Monies arising therefrom as also from my Real Estate after the payment of my just debts and Funeral Expenses I give and bequeath as follows—*ITEM* I give and bequeath unto my Brother Frederick Hesser's Son namely John Hesser the sum of five Pounds in Gold or Silver Coin to be paid unto him in one year after my decease as his full share and dividend of my Estate to him and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever—

*ITEM*—I give and bequeath unto my Brother George Hesser's Son Namely John Hesser the sum of Ten Pounds in Gold or Silver Coin to be paid unto him when he doth arrive to the age of Twenty one Years to him and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever. *ITEM* I give and bequeath unto my Sister—Christiana Miller's Son namely John Miller the Sum of Ten Pounds in Gold or Silver Coin to be paid unto him when he doth arrive to the age of Twenty one Years to him and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever. *ITEM* I give and bequeath One seventh part of the Clear Monies arising from my Estate

to my Brother Frederick Hesser's Daughters to be paid unto them in one year after the decease of their Father or to the Survivors of them part and Share alike and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever. after first paying my first Debts and deducting the foregoing Legacies and the Interest of such one seventh part I do order my Executors to pay to my said Brother Frederick for his Support and at Such Times as they may think proper and to no other Person Whatsoever. *ITEM* I give and bequeath one other Seventh part of the Clear Monies aforesaid after the deductions aforesaid unto my Sister Catharine Sommer's Children namely Mary and George Sommers to be paid unto them in one year after the decease of their Mother part and share alike and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever. And the interest of such one seventh part I do order my Executor to pay annually unto my Sister Catharine during her natural Life—*ITEM* I give and bequeath one other seventh part of the Clear Monies afores. after the deductions afores. . . unto my sister Mary Green's two daughters namely Catharine and Ann Green to be paid unto them in one year after the decease of their Mother part and share alike and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever—And the interest of one such seventh part I do order my Executors to pay unto my said Sister Mary and to no other person during her Natural Life and at Such Time and Times as they my Executors may think proper—*ITEM* All the Rest and Residue of my Estate whatsoever unto me in anywise belonging not before Willed and bequeathed (accept my Wearing apparel) I give and bequeath unto my Brothers and Sisters Namely Leonard Hesser, Rachel Gorgas, George Hesser and Christiana Miller share and share alike and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever—*ITEM* I give and bequeath unto my said Brother Leonard Hesser my best Hat my light Coloured Napt Cloth Coat and Incoat and Red under Waiscoat And unto my said Brother Frederick Hesser all the Remaining part and parts of my Wearing Apparel—And lastly I do nominate my said Brother George Hesser and my Nephew the before Named George Sommers to be the sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament And I do hereby Revoke disannul disallow and make Legacies and Executors by me in any wise before this Time named Willed devised and bequeathed ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof



I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the fourth day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety two ——— JOHN HESSER (SEAL)

“Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said Testator for and as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us—John Huston, Michael Marsteller—John Huston and Michael Marsteller witnesses to the foregoing Will on their Solemn Oath do depose and say that they saw and heard John Hesser the Testator duly Sign Seal Publish and declare the same as and for his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of sound mind memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge and belief. Sworn the 17th day of September 1792—

Before Isaac Hampolet Regr.”

“The foregoing Will being proved Probate was granted unto George Hesser and George Sommers Executors therein named they being first duly sworn truly to perform the same exhibit a True Inventory and under a Just and True Account When thereunto lawfully required Given under the Seal of the Office the day and date aforesaid.

Geo. Campbell Regr.”

There are many deductions that can be made if this will is carefully considered. It is thoughtfully conceived and administered and the Innkeeper can be complimented for all that it entails.

*Issue:* He never married, no issue.

#### References:

Philadelphia Will book, W, page 283, year 1792.

Records, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Pennsylvania Archives.

Other biographical material will be found in various places in this book (see especially chapter on the Buck Tavern)



## FREDERICK HESSER (2)

1736-?

3. FREDERICK HESSER (2), saddler; date of birth and death not ascertained; the second son of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1); unlike his brothers John (2), Leonard (2), and George Nicholas (2), he did not stay on in Germantown, but moved out into the country, into Providence township, then a part of Philadelphia County—later a part of Montgomery County. He, along with all of his brothers, served in the Revolutionary War—he was with the Philadelphia Associators and Militia in 1777.

According to the records of the Tohickon Union Church (consisting of St. Peters Reformed and Peace Evangelical Lutheran Congregations) located at Weisel, Pa., on the south bank of Tohickon Creek in the northwest corner of Bedminster township, Bucks County, Pa., Frederick Hesser (2) and Catharine Doll were married on Oct. 12, 1760 in the Tohickon Reformed Church. The Pastor who married them was Rev. John Egidius Hecker, as he was the Minister of the Reformed Church from 1755 to 1762. This church is commonly called the Tohickon Church of Keelersville, Pa. The church record reads "1760 Friderich Hesser et Cata. Doll in Capuliri il 12th Octob." (translated, Frederick Hesser and Catharine Doll married the 12th October 1760). Since there are no other entries of Hessers on the Tohickon church books (and they have good records from 1749 to 1869) it would seem that Frederick (2) went to this community where the Doll family lived and won the hand of Catharine. However, there were Dolls living in Germantown and La Trappe, and Frederick (2) may have met her there before they moved westward. The Doll family was evidently of considerable size and importance as the Tohickon Church lists a number of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths under that name. The church record reads as follows, "Elizabeth Catharine Doll was confirmed on the Forx (Forks) near Easton on the 2nd Sunday before Pentecost 1757." Casper Doll of Montgomery County settled in McVeytown, Pa., (Mifflin County), he was a nephew of Catharine, wife of Frederick Hesser (2).

"Casper Doll (2) settled in McVeytown shortly after the Revolutionary War, he emigrated from Montgomery County, Pa.; he

went to Butler County where he had received land for Revolutionary Service, but McVeytown, then Waynesburg, had its attraction and he returned there to spend his days. He died aged 84—his son, Casper (3) (b. 1792), was in McVeytown until his death 1874, aged 82.”<sup>1</sup>

Casper Doll (1) also lived for awhile in the neighborhood of the Tohickon Church, for we find his name with members of his family on the Church records in 1757.

There seemed to be a regular line of migration of Hessers and Dolls<sup>2</sup> westward, from Montgomery County, Pa., to Mifflin County.

When the German people came to America they used Philadelphia and Germantown as a base and then they spread out along the streams and valleys. In 1740 a group of Moravians founded Bethlehem. They may have blazed the path through the forests from Germantown to Bethlehem that later became known as the Bethlehem Road, which now passes by the Tohickon Church. This would open up a way for other German settlers who would follow. The Bethlehem Road was used in 1777 when the Liberty Bell was taken to Allentown to escape capture of the British. These early colonists, Reformed and Lutheran, usually brought with them the Bible, the Hymn book and the Catechism; and came with the desire to worship God unmolested. They followed this early road which was known and accessible and founded the Tohickon Church in 1743. It became a thriving center for both Church and school and has remained a great force for good in the community for over two centuries. Through the years, the old cemetery has grown and almost surrounds the Church. One will notice in the cemetery what has been observed in other graveyards in this area and that is the quality of head-stones which represent four periods of interments; first, the primitive native rock, such as is used in the foundation of the Church down to 1750,

<sup>1</sup>History of Mifflin County, p. 139.

<sup>2</sup>History Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Vol. I, Ellis, P. 602: biography of Casper Dull and a steel engraving.—The name Doll was later spelled Dull and we find it so recorded in the History of Juniata and Susquehanna Valleys of Pennsylvania. There were three generations of Casper Dulls. Casper (1) arrived from Germany in Philadelphia in 1739 and he settled in Montgomery County at La Trappe where he lived, raised his family, and died. It is possible that he was landlord for the Old Trappe Tavern which later was operated by Frederick Hesser (2). Casper (2) was a Captain in the Revolution and after the war went to McVeytown, Pa., where he lived and died as stated above. It is interesting to note that Casper's (2) brother, Abraham Doll, enlisted in the Revolution at the same time with Frederick's (2) two sons, John (3), the fifer, and Frederick, (3), the drummer. Casper (3) exerted a deep influence upon the business life of McVeytown and upon the state canal systems over which he supervised, under the direction of the Governor of Pennsylvania. On this, as in every other public trust, he was an efficient and faithful officer. The Dull family left a marked influence upon that section of Mifflin County.

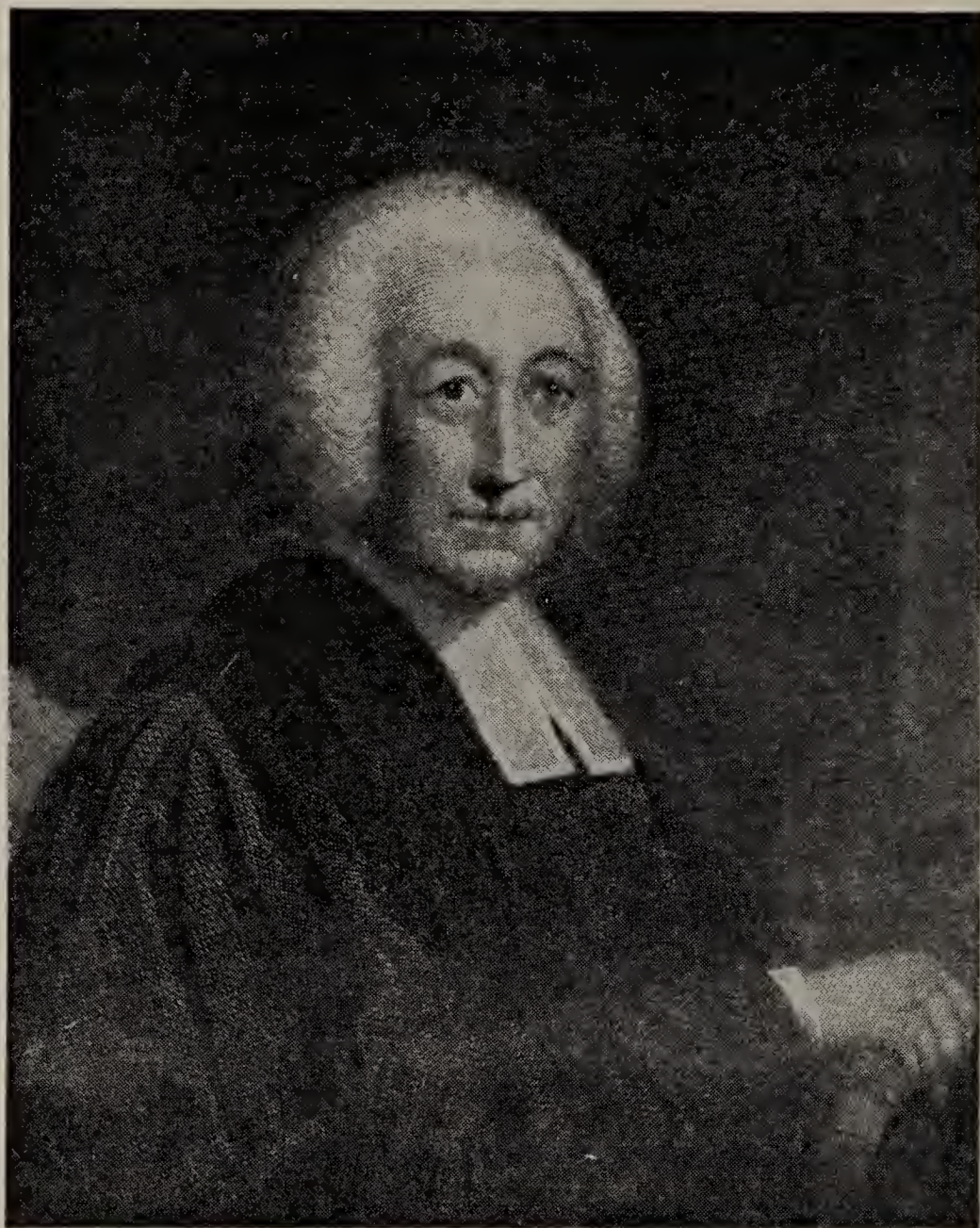




THE OLD TRAPPE CHURCH  
(The Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, Pa.)  
Built 1743—Consecrated 1745

This Shrine of Lutheranism was the first church built by Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pioneer organizer and Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America. Frederick Hesser (2) was a deacon in this church. Both he and his family attended this church.





PASTOR HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG

A friend and neighbor of Frederick Hesser (2) of La Trappe, Pennsylvania. Rev. Muhlenberg was pastor of the Augustus Lutheran Church at La Trappe. He baptized three of Frederick's (2) children; John (3), Frederick (3), and Catharine (3). Muhlenberg helped to make America through his work as a preacher, teacher, healer, counselor and organizer. He applied the principles of the Reformation in Colonial America and through leadership and determination brought the early Lutheran congregations together into a synod, thereby gaining for it recognition and influence in the Commonwealth.



generally without inscription; this is followed by slate to 1775; then usually brown sandstone to somewhere around 1800, and then comes marble, blue marble first and then the white. Tombstone inscriptions in German were used until about 1840.

Three church buildings have stood on this site—the first one was built in 1743, the second in 1766 and the third in 1838. It was remodeled in 1884 and extensive improvements made in 1918. It is said that the church had an organ in 1766 which cost \$1500.

This old historic Tohickon Church is at least in part the Mother of all the neighboring Reformed churches, Kellers, Applebachville, Dublin, Quakertown, Ridge Road, Benjamin, or Bridgetown, Sellersville, Perkasio and Doylestown. Some of the Ministers were very well educated men and we find them using Latin in making many of their recordings of marriages, deaths, baptisms, etc.—Rev. Hecker was one of these.

After Frederick's (2) marriage to Catharine Doll in 1760 he bought a farm in Providence Township, La Trappe, Pa. (then in Philadelphia County) in 1762.<sup>1</sup> His name is found in a number of records as follows:

A proprietary tax list of 1769 lists him saddler with  
 "fifty acres, 2 horses, 3 cattle—no servants tax" Providence  
 Township, County of Philadelphia.

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<sup>1</sup>See Deed Book No. 2, P. 500, Montgomery County Court House, Norristown, Pa., for farm bought in 1762—deed as follows:

"THIS INDENTURE Made the tenth day of December in the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty two, Between Samuel Sealy of New Providence Township in the County of Philadelphia and Providence of Pennsylvania, Innholder, and Mary his wife of the one part and Frederick Hesser of the same place, Saddler, of the other part.

"WHEREAS Peter Johnson late of the County aforesaid, Yeoman, deceased, with Gertrude his wife by their Indenture of Release dated December 20, 1722—did grant and confirm two hundred and fifty acres of land unto one Herman De Heaven late of same place, Yeoman, deceased (Book F, Vol. 2, p. 252) who by his last Will and Testament dated October 1, 1749 did devise to his wife Annica the Plantation whereon I now live and after her death to my youngest Isaac De Heaven. And whereas the said Annica De Heaven, widow and relict of said Herman De Heaven, and Isaac De Heaven, her son, and Elizabeth his wife, by Indenture dated June 29, 1759, did grant and release eleven acres and one hundred and twenty one perches to the said Samuel Seely, part of the said two hundred and fifty acres. NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, that the said Samuel Seely and wife Mary in Consideration of the sum of £400 well and truly paid by said Frederick Hesser, doth grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Frederick Hesser a certain piece of land (part of the above-mentioned 250 acres) situated in Providence Township, Beginning at a stone in the Maxatawny Great Road set for a corner in the land of Jonas Seely and adjoining lands of Jacob Schrack and David Davis and land of the said Samuel Seely, Containing fifty acres \* \* \* \* IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said Parties to these Presents have Interchangeably set their hands and seals hereunto dated the Day and Year first above written."

Samuel Seely<sup>2</sup>  
 Mary Seely

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<sup>2</sup>Samuel Seely divided his farm into town lots and this was the beginning of the town of La Trappe, Pennsylvania.

His signature is noted on a petition, Sept. 1772 (first Monday in Sept.) with various inhabitants of Providence and Limerick in County of Philadelphia.

Effective Supply Tax List of 1779, Providence Township, County of Philadelphia, Frederick Hesser.

A tax list for 1785 lists him as "Innkeeper, with fifty acres, 1 horse, 1 cow." (His brother, John (2), at the same time was the proprietor of the famous Buck Tavern in Germantown)

In 1786, he sold his farm in Providence Township (now Montgomery County) to his nephews, George and Benjamin Gorgas, Millers of Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County.<sup>1</sup>

The 1790 census, Heads of families in Montgomery County lists Frederick Hesser (2).

Land was granted to Frederick (2) in Huntingdon County, Pa., in 1794<sup>2</sup> (no doubt for Revolutionary service).

The last record of Frederick (2) available is found in the will of his brother John (2), who died in 1792, wherein he is named for his share of John's (2) estate.

Frederick (2) and his wife Catharina were members of the old Trappe Church (Augustus Lutheran Church) Trappe, Pa., (sometimes called the Providence Church) for we find that Pastor Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg baptized<sup>3</sup> their first son Johannes (3) on September 6, 1761 (born August 10). He may have baptized others in the family, but on account of the disappearance of some of the old Trappe Church records it is not possible to give them. There is a record of the confirmation of the two children, Frederick (3) and Catharine (3) in the New Hannover Church in 1781—Pastor Muhlenberg ministered to this church in connection with his church at La Trappe.

There were fifty-one in this confirmation class with Frederick (3) and Catharine (3) and among them was Salome Muhlenberg, daughter of Pastor Muhlenberg.

<sup>1</sup>See Deed Book No. 7, P. 889, Montgomery County Court House, Norristown, Pa. for deed to Gorgas boys. Deed as follows:

"DEED April 21, 1786, Between Frederick Hesser of New Providence Township, County of Montgomery and State of Pennsylvania, Saddler, and George Gorgas, of Roxborough of County of Philadelphia, Miller, and Benjamin Gorgas of same, Miller. Consideration £607 for a certain Plantation and tract of land Situated in Providence Township on the Great Maxatawney Road, Containing fifty acres, being same which Samuel Seely and Mary his wife by deed dated Dec. 10, 1762 granted to said Frederick Hesser."

<sup>2</sup>Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, Vol. XXV, P. 721, shows that 400 acres were warranted to Frederick Hesser in Huntingdon County, Pa., and the land was surveyed May 2, 1794.

<sup>3</sup>Old Trappe Church Records, published by the Pennsylvania-German Society, Vol. VI, P. 236.



The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg kept a diary or Journal which has recently been published in two volumes (the third volume to be printed soon) by the Lutheran Church of Pennsylvania.

He states in his Journal, after his return to Trappe from Philadelphia where he had lived for fifteen years—"March 20, 1776, Messrs. George Diehl and Friedrich Hesser, two deacons of our congregation, brought some firewood to the house as a present," and on<sup>1</sup> "August 3, 1776—in the afternoon, Mr. Hesser lent me his riding mare and I rode —— to Swamp." He also says "On August 22, 1763, Monday—Devoted the day to visiting the neighbors—Messrs. Hesser, Seely, Roth, and Jacob and Johannis Schrack."

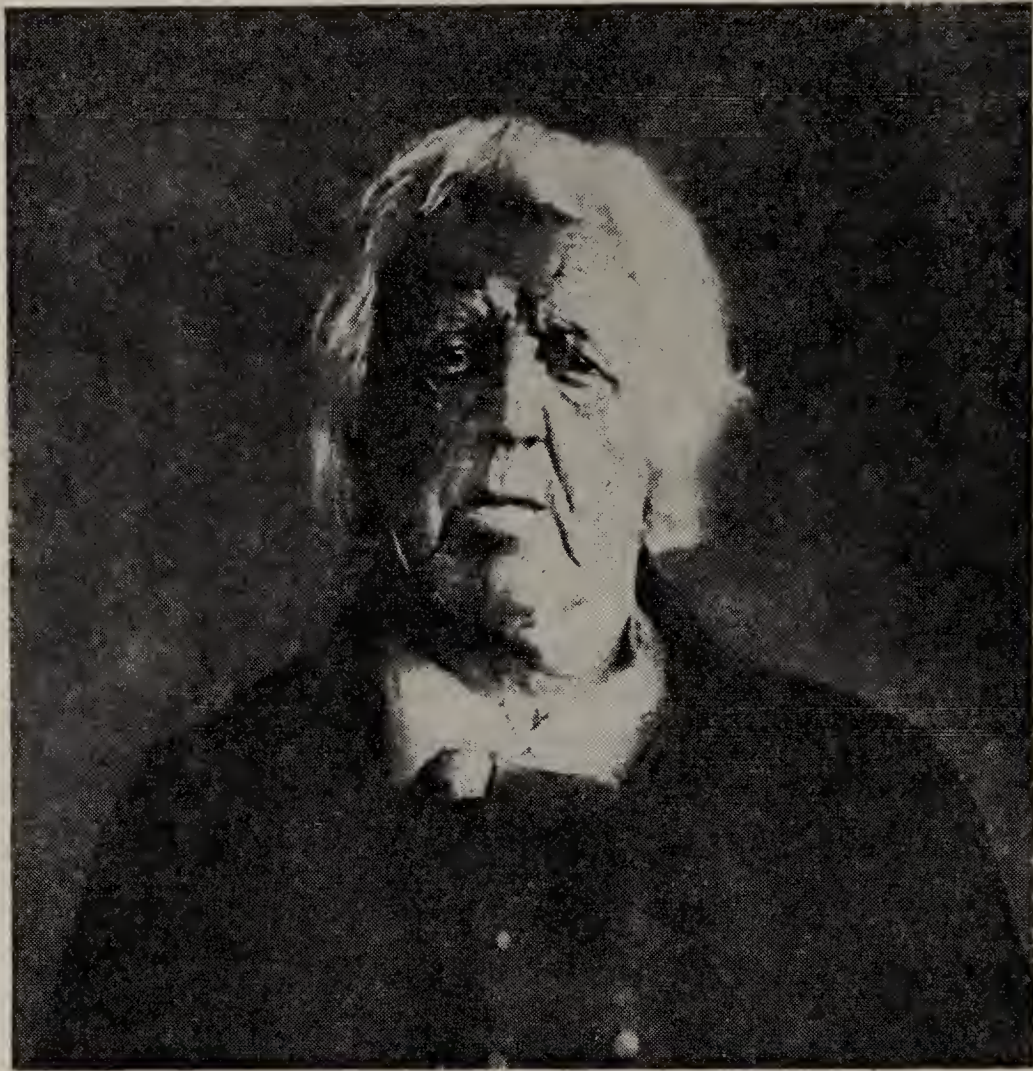
This information would show Friedrich's (2) interest and prominence in the church and community. Pastor Muhlenberg was evidently going to the "Swamp" on a ministerial mission as there was an important group of Lutherans located there. (The Swamp was later known as New Hanover).

The old Trappe Church is a shrine of Lutheranism. It was the first stone church built by Rev. Muhlenberg who was the first regularly called pastor and marks the beginning of the organization of Lutheranism in America. In style, the building is of German-rural architecture. It was built in 1743 and consecrated in 1745.

Your author had the pleasure of attending a Sunday morning service in the present new church (built in 1852) and following the service of being shown through the Old Church by a very obliging and informative custodian. Services are held once a year in the Old Church which is located on the same beautiful grounds as the new one on the Main Street in Trappe, Pennsylvania. We also paid a visit to the cemetery which adjoins the church, where Pastor Muhlenberg, with his wife, are buried. Buried beside him is his famous son, Major General Peter Muhlenberg, efficient general, preacher, and statesman. He was very prominent in the state affairs of his day, being elected to the House of Burgesses in Virginia and a Colonel in the Colonial Guards. The reader will recall that he wore his Colonel's uniform when he preached his farewell sermon. Concluding with the well-known statement, "There is a time to preach, and

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<sup>1</sup>The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Vols. I and II, are published by the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States and the Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia, A.D. MCMXLII. These Journals are a treasury of knowledge regarding religious conditions in Colonial America and concerning the establishment of the Lutheran Church. In these Journals is the early history of many of the Lutheran congregations and families still surviving in twentieth century America.



FREDERICK HESSER (3) 1763-1846  
General George Washington's Drummer-boy

This picture was reproduced from an old daguerreotype by the late William H. Hesser (6), a great grandson of Frederick (3). The old picture was loaned to William (6) by the late Elizabeth Hesser (5) a granddaughter of Frederick (3). The above picture was presented to your author, George Ernest Hesser (7) by the late William H. Hesser, of Freehold, New Jersey, who was planning to write a history of his own Hesser family.



a time to pray: there is also a time to fight, and that time has come now." With that declaration he threw off his clerical robe (now in the Library at the Lutheran Mt. Airy Seminary, Philadelphia) and dressed in his soldier's uniform, led his men to the field of battle. He was a great friend of General George Washington, and an able soldier who rose to the rank of Brigadier General.

The old Trappe Church, while removed from the major battles of the Revolution played its part in the long bitter struggle. Pastor Muhlenberg was here during the encampment at Valley Forge and often preached to groups of soldiers that were recruited. General Armstrong camped around the Church and School and used it as his headquarters. After the battle of Germantown, the Church was fitted up for a hospital to which many soldiers were moved. It is said that on October 5, 1777, General Washington came to the entrance of the church, riding his white horse, entered and spoke words of cheer and comfort to the suffering soldiers. It is fortunate that the Old Church escaped serious injury.

Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pioneer preacher, organizer, patriarch; whose life was given to the service of his fellow-men, was endowed with a happy temperament. Accepting the primitive conditions of the New World with a smile, he pursued their solution with determination.

As one Lutheran preacher has said, "his culture admitted him to the confidence of the King while his versatile humanity made him a cherished companion of the people." He ministered in seven languages: Latin, German, English, French, Dutch, Swedish, Bohemian—sometimes preaching in three languages in one day. He was a skilled musician and encouraged the ministry of music. He had a fine tenor voice and was an accomplished instrumentalist. These artistic talents made him a very welcome guest in the home. Judging from his Journals, he had many trials and petty annoyances, but there was always the unfailing faith of an aggressive evangelist which, coupled with the capacity to organize and administer, brought him final triumph.

Frederick Hesser's (2) property (the Inn and farm) was located on the southwest side of Trappe's present Main street, opposite the old Augustus Lutheran Church. After searching the land titles it would seem that his tavern was situated a short distance above the



present Old Lamb Tavern and that when business was discontinued at Hesser's Tavern the Lamb was opened.

*Issue:*

10. JOHN (3), b. Trappe, Pa., Aug. 10, 1761; d. in 1825 (in Germantown or Orwigsburg?): M. Elizabeth Frey 1783. He served in the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812.
11. FREDERICK (3), b. July 6, 1763, Trappe, Pa.; d. June 23, 1846 Orwigsburg, Pa.; he was a drummer-boy in the Revolutionary War.
12. CATHARINE (3), 1765; m. Mr. Rahn, mentioned in Uncle John's (2) will.
13. JACOB (3), b. Feb. 17, 1773; Trappe, Pa., Providence township, Philadelphia County, (later Montgomery County).
14. ISAAC (3), b. —; m. Mary about 1810; mentioned in Uncle George's (2) will.
15. ABRAHAM (3), b. March 28, 1779? d. Aug. 17, 1847; m. (1) Hannah —; (2) Judith —. He was on the rolls of the Revolution in Northampton County Militia, Pa.

There were probably other children.

*References:*

Montgomery County Court House Records, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Biographical material for the above will be found in this text. The Revolutionary War records are also included.

"A History of the Tohickon Union Church," Pub. by the Penna-German Society, Vol. 31, 1920.

History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys of Penna. Vol. I. Ellis.

The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg—Pub. Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia.

10. JOHN HESSER (3), fifer in the Revolution, b. at La Trappe, Montgomery County, Pa., August 10, 1761; baptized by pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in the Augustus Lutheran Church,<sup>1</sup> sponsors, the parents; son of Frederick Hesser (2) and Catharine Doll-Hesser; d. 1825 (one ancestor states that he died in Germantown, Pa., and another says in Orwigsburg, Pa. —?)

His biography has been very elusive, chiefly because he moved about considerably and on account of his long service in the Wars of the Revolution and 1812. The author is indebted to Mrs. May E.

<sup>1</sup>See Proceedings of Pennsylvania-German Society, Vol. VI, p. 256.

Enders, a genealogist, Newtown, Pa., and a descendant of John (3), who furnished considerable historic material through researches she had made.

John Hesser (3) was married to Elizabeth Frey in St. Michaels Lutheran Church, Germantown, on September 25, 1783. Elizabeth Frey was born in Germantown, Jan. 5, 1766. She was the great-great-grand-daughter of Henrich Frey, who came to this country in 1680 and married Katherine Ann Levering, in April 25, 1692. When Elizabeth Frey was eleven years old (1777) she was in the cellar of the house next to the old Chew Mansion, Germantown, when the battle of Germantown commenced, and she went upstairs and witnessed the battle from her window. There is a Levering Genealogy which refers to Katharine Ann Levering and Henrich Frey.

John (3) was fifteen years old when he joined the Associated Battalion of Pennsylvania in the Revolution, as a fifer.<sup>2</sup> He, with his brother Frederick (3) the drummer, and his cousin, Abraham Doll, enlisted at the same time (their names appear together on the Muster Roll, John's name appearing directly above his brother Frederick's) in the U. S. service, August 5, 1777.<sup>3</sup> John (3) served off and on in the U. S. service for nearly forty years and finally in the War of 1812.

An ancestor of John (3) states that "he was with Washington on the eventful night, December 25, 1776, which was cold, dark and stormy, when he and his little army of true patriots crossed the swollen Delaware amidst floating ice, entered Trenton, surprised and defeated the British forces which were chiefly Hessians, when shortly after the battle he was sent up to La Trappe with a guard having in charge a lot of prisoners and continued there until August 5, 1777. He participated in the battle of Brandywine September 11, 1777.

"John Hesser (3), after serving nearly forty years in the U. S. service, went to Orwigsburg, Pa., and became a resident of that borough. (See page 100, second series, Pa. Archives). He was stricken with paralysis and while confined to his bed and unable to move had his fife strung from the ceiling so that he might play while lying in bed."

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<sup>2</sup>Pa. Archives, Second Series, Vol. 14, p. 12, Vol. 13, p. 736.

<sup>3</sup>Pa. Archives, Sixth Series, Vol. 1, p. 484.



The author has recorded in this volume "an Historical Reminiscence" and also a poem, "Washington and the Drummer Boy at Valley Forge" which was printed in the Daily Local News, West Chester, Pa., regarding both John (3), the fifer, and Frederick (3), the drummer. It will be found under the biography of Frederick (3).

John (3) made application from Orwigsburg, Pa., for a Pennsylvania state pension in Jan. 12, 1825. His application for pension reads as follows:

"To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met.

"The Petition of John Hesser now residing in the borough of Orwigsburg, Schuylkill County, a native of Pennsylvania.

"Most Respectfully Sheweth that early in the Revolutionary War he entered into the service of his Country and served four different tours in the Militia, that he was at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown and that he was taken prisoner and carried to New York, where he suffered the hardship incident to a state of confinement—after being a prisoner about three months he made his escape by venturing his life in a small boat, with which he passed across the North River to the State of New Jersey through a part of the British fleet in the night time.

"Your petitioner begs leave further to state that he enlisted as an express Mail Carrier on Horse-back for the term of nine months in 1779, under the direction of Co. John Mitchel, Deputy Quarter Master General in the service of the United States.

That he enlisted as musician in Captain Jacob Shaners company, in the year 1812 for five years in the late War with Great Britain and marched to Canada, where he served faithfully during the term of his enlistment and whilst in Canada he was placed in Captain Grays Company in the Regiment Command by Col. Hugh Brady in which Regiment he remained until he was honorably discharged.

"Your Petitioner believes it unnecessary to state to your honorable bodies the hardships and privations he suffered in Canada during five years service; he nevertheless will take the liberty to observe that in consequence of the hardships he experienced in the aforementioned term he laid the foundation of a disorder which has confined him to his bed which he never can expect to rise and become a healthy man—about 4 years has your Petitioner been confined in consequence of a stroke of the palsy which has deprived him of the use of his limbs



and has totally destroyed the power of his left arm and leg—your petitioner is informed from good authority that he can obtain no relief under any act of Congress, because he receivd no wound neither was he disabled as above stated while in the service of the United States. Your Petitioner therefore solicits the generosity and liberality of the Legislature of his native State, and prays that they will place him on the pension list,—he further assures your honorable bodies that he has no property whatever which as well as some of the services he rendered his Country is fully in the recollection of the Member of the House of Representatives from Schuylkill County, he entertains a hope that you will grant him relief and he as in duty bound will pray.”<sup>1</sup>

(Signed) John Hesser

John (3) spent practically all of his life as a soldier in the service of his Country. He, of course, moved about a great deal and no doubt his family life was greatly disrupted. We know that he lived in Germantown for some time—then later we find him in and about Orwigsburg, Pa., where his brother Frederick (3) had located. We find that a divorce was granted by the supreme Court of Pennsylvania to Elizabeth Hesser from John Hesser (3) late of Philadelphia County, married about fifteen years, divorced March 25, 1801.<sup>2</sup> We have found a record of John’s (3) transferring property to a nephew, George Rahn in 1812 prior to his enlisting in the War of 1812.<sup>3</sup>

There was a barn burned down in Manheim Township, near Orwigsburg, in 1808, owned by Richard Rickert. A man was prosecuted by the Commonwealth for arson and the case tried in Reading, a year or two later. Frederick Hesser (3) gives testimony, saying he was at the Rickert house the night of the fire, having walked over from Orwigsburg, on a visit to Rickert. John Hesser (3) also testifies, says he lived at Rickert’s place (presumably worked there), and that he slept in an upstairs room with two of Rickert’s sons, and that he first saw the fire on the thatched barn roof from his window. So that from at least 1808 to 1810 John Hesser (3) was living with Richard Rickert in Manheim township, in Schuylkill County.

In the War 1812, the muster roll of a company of Riflemen commanded by Theophilus Hughes, First Regiment of Penna. Militia,

<sup>1</sup>He was granted a pension of \$40.00 a year. (See laws of Penn., 1821-1822, page 126)

<sup>2</sup>Publications of the Genealogical Society of Penna., Dec. 1898, Vol. I, No. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

<sup>3</sup>Deed. Deed Book No. 1, p. 103, Pottsville, Pa.

stationed at York, Pa., Sept. 5, 1814, contains the name of John Hesser (3), Corporal, who had enlisted from Manheim township, Schuylkill County.

John Hesser (3) is on the 1820 census as living in Orwigsburg at that date with a family of 1 male (himself no doubt) over 45 years of age, and one female aged 16 to 25. (The female was probably a daughter).

John Hesser (3) was sponsor at the birth of Frederick, a child of Frederick (3) and his wife born Feb. 2, 1818 (Reformed Church record), Orwigsburg, Pa.

The children of John (3) and Elizabeth Frey-Hesser were evidently reared in or about Philadelphia as their names are in the Directories from 1812 on. After John's divorce he evidently went to Orwigsburg to be with or near his brother Frederick (3). Tradition has it that he left Orwigsburg after 1823 and was not heard from again in that vicinity—another family records him as died—Germantown, Pa., 1825?

*Issue:*

16. CATHARINE (4), b. in Germantown, July 11, 1784, d. June 29, 1870; m. John Weaver 1807.
17. JOHN (4), b. Oct. 4, 1785; no further information.
18. DANIEL (4), b. Jan. 25, 1788; m. 1811 Rebecca Matlock; no further information.
19. CARL (4), b. March 1, 1790; m. 1809 Catharine Wunder.
20. WILHELM (4), b. Dec. 20, 1791; d. March 4, 1876; m. 1819, Catharine Paul.
21. SUSANNA (4), b. March 10, 1794; m. Henry Sleight.
22. ANNA EVE (4), b. Nov. 1, 1795; m. Jacob Brunner.
23. SUSANNA (4), b. Oct. 3, 1797.

*References:*

Biographical Sketch of John (3) will be found in this text (with his brother Frederick (3) )

Penna. Archives, Vol. 14, p. 12, Vol. I, p. 484, and Vol. 12, p. 736.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, Pa. Church records.

Deed Book, No. I, p. 103, Pottsville, Pa.

Proceedings of Pennsylvania-German Society, Vol. VI, p. 236.

19. CARL HESSER (4), or Charles, son of 10 John (3), the fifer) was born March 1, 1790; he married Catharine Wunder in 1809

*Issue:*

24. GEORGE (5)

25. ELIZA (5)

26. ANN (5)

27. REBECCA (5), b. 1820, m. Thomas Wagner, Sr.; Dec. 24, 1838; there was a son, Thomas, Jr., who married Mary C. Martin in 1863. To this union were born Rebie, Thomas M., May E. Enders, George C.

20. WILHELM HESSER (4), b. Dec. 20, 1792; d. March 4, 1876; married Catharine Paul Jan. 7, 1819; Catherine Paul, b. Oct. 5, 1799 and d. June 18, 1878; she was a daughter of Henry Paul and Catharine Burkhard-Paul of Frankford.

*Issue:*

28. ALFRED PAUL (5), b. Sept. 2, 1819; d. Oct. 4, 1861; killed in the Civil War (congestive chill)

29. HENRY PAUL (5), b. Feb. 16, 1821; d. May 20, 1868.

30. JOSEPH PAUL (5), b. March 30, 1823; m. Aug. 18, 1853; d. April 17, 1897.

31. EDWIN JAMES (5), b. Nov. 21, 1824; d. July 21, 1861, first battle of Bull Run.

32. WILLIAM AUGUSTUS (5), b. April 4, 1826; d. Oct. 21, 1859; tradition has it that he was a mate on an East Indian sailing ship and died five days out of Calcutta and was buried in the Indian Ocean.

33. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (5), b. Feb. 5, 1828; d. Dec. 23, 1916; m. Lizzie Millman.

34. THEODORE (5), b. July 16, 1829; d. Nov. 27, 1863; served in the Mexican and Civil Wars.

35. HANNA PAUL (5), b. April 21, 1831; d. June 10, 1914.

36. ELIZABETH PAUL (5), b. Feb. 16, 1834; d. June 16, 1918.

37. KATE BURKHARD (5), b. July 2, 1838; d. April 2, 1906.

38. JAMES PAGE (5), b. Oct. 10, 1841; m. (1st wife) Marg. Wisher, St. Louis, (2nd wife), Lizzie Hillman Wood.

30. JOSEPH PAUL HESSER (5), b. Mar. 30, 1828; m. Aug. 18, 1853; d. April 17, 1897; b. Mount Airy, Chestnut Hill, German-





THE LANGTON PETER HESSER FAMILY, CRESTLINE, (CRAWFORD COUNTY) OHIO

A family reunion picture taken in Crestline in 1895. Reading from left to right, top row, Roberta Louise Castner, George Gaylord Hesser, Mary Ellen Garberich-Hesser, Minerva McConnell Hesser-Castner, Alexander McClay Castner, Elizabeth Roberta Hesser; second row, Ernest Roy Osborne, Lura Isabell Hesser-Osborne, George McClay Castner, Langton Peter Hesser, George Ernest Hesser, Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser, Fred Garberich Hesser, Azor H. Osborne; bottom row, Sarah Nellie Hesser, Ralph Eugene Castner, Lura Margaret Castner and Rachel Minerva Osborne.



town; buried in Springfield, Ill.; m. to Mary Catharine Hillman of Springfield, Ill. at St. Louis, Mo.

*Issue:*

39. ALFRED PAUL HESSER (6), b. Jan. 9, 1855, Hillsboro, Mo.; d. Nov. 16, 1856.
40. ELIZABETH STELLA (6), b. Oct. 24, 1856; m. Lee Hopkins Dec. 30, 1875.
41. EMMA JOSEPHINE (6), b. Mar. 8, 1859; m. 1876 to James Depew.
42. ANNA LEE BEAUREGARD (6), b. June 26, 1861; m. 1913 to Rev. G. A. Landen.
43. IDA MAY HESSER (6), b. Aprl. 30, 1863; d. Nov. 26, 1902.
44. MARGARET HESSER (6), 1866-1868.
45. GRACE SMITH HESSER (6), b. 1868; m. 1908; d. 1931.
46. WILLIAM LEON HESSER (6), b. July 30, 1874; Bloomington, Ill.
34. THEODORE HESSER (5), b. July 16, 1829; m. Anna Mary Bird; d. Nov. 27, 1863; served in the Mexican War and the Civil War; res. Philadelphia, Pa.

*Issue:*

47. PAUL M. HESSER (6), m. Elizabeth T. Meyers, res. Philadelphia.
48. THEODORA (6), deceased; res. Roslyn, Pa.
49. ELLA GERTRUDE (6), deceased; res. Roslyn, Pa.
50. PAUL M. HESSER (6), m. Elizabeth T. Myers; res. Philadelphia, Pa.

*Issue:*

51. PAUL M. HESSER, JR. (7), res. 140 W. Phil-Ellena St., Philadelphia, Pa.
52. THEODORE MYERS HESSER (7), res. Girard St., Woodburg, N. J.
53. ADELA H. HESSER-WALTON, Philadelphia, Pa.

# 11. FREDERICK HESSER (3)

1763-1846

## WASHINGTON'S DRUMMER BOY

Possibly one of the most colorful figures in the history of the Hesser family was Frederick Hesser (3), who at the early age of thirteen enlisted in the service of his country as a drummer boy serving under General George Washington. Frederick (3), a dynamic, versatile personality, held during his eventful career a number of positions and was known at various times throughout his long life of eighty-three years as Washington's Drummer boy, the singing drummer boy, county sheriff, constable, farmer, soldier, court crier, choir director, church singer, violinist, musician and distinguished citizen.

Frederick Hesser (3), son of Frederick Hesser (2) and Catharine Doll-Hesser, was born July 6, 1763 at Trappe, Providence Township, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County), Penna. No biographical information concerning him has been found prior to his enlisting in the service of his Country. There is a record of him and his sister Catharine Hesser (3) being confirmed in the New Hanover Church, Montgomery County, by Pastor Muhlenberg in 1781. Frederick (3) was then eighteen years of age and Catharine sixteen years.

The following is his war record as he presented it in his filed application for pension claim before the Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C. This application from Orwigsburg, Pa. was filed November 1, 1832 when he was 69 years old and his pension was allowed.

<i>Dates of Enlistments</i>	<i>Length of Service</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Colonel</i>	<i>State</i>
Sept. 1776	2 mo., 1 wk.	Drum	Andrew	John	Penna.
		Major	Redheffer	Moore	
May 1777	2 mos.	Drum	No officer named.		Penna.
		Major			
August 1777	2 mos.	Drummer		John Moore	Penna.
Nov. 7, 1777	2 mos.	Drummer	No officers named		Penna.
Afterwards	3 mos.	Team Driver			Penna.

The pension claim states that he engaged in battles at Brandywine, Skirmish on Staten Island and evacuation of Fort Lee. (There



was only one line on the form sent the writer giving this information as to the battles he engaged in, so evidently his complete battle record was not included.) The following account of his service was given the writer which he furnished with his declaration for a pension. "He enlisted four times. The first enlistment when he was but 13 years of age, as Drum-Major. He enlisted September, 1776, at the Trappe, in Pluta Co. under Capt. Andrew Redheffer, in the regiment commanded by Col. John Moore. In November 1776, he was taken sick and permitted to return home. May 1777 was his second enlistment as a substitute. In August, 1777, under Col. John Moore, he marched to Fort Mifflin, thence to Wilmington and Brandywine Creek. He took part in the battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777. During the year he was given the command of a number of men on duty at Hog Island. He again joined the Militia under Gen. Potter at Warwick Furnace in Chester County. His third enlistment was as a substitute under General Washington at Germantown, and lay in winter quarters at Valley Forge while the British occupied Pluta. He was with Washington when he crossed the Delaware, Dec. 25, 1776, and surprised the Hessians at Trenton. On this battlefield, Capt. Evans picked up a musket and gave it to him to use, telling him to use it well. The musket is still in possession of the family. It is hereby certified that the above mentioned Frederick Hesser of Penna. was allowed for his services in the Revolutionary War, a pension of \$30.13 per annum, under Act June 7, 1832. See Pension Record O. W. & N. Div. U. P. W. Ex'r."

Through careful research the following information has been secured concerning Frederick's biography:

(Archives Third Ser. XXVI 353)

Land Warrants in Schuylkill County to Frederick Hesser				
Jan. 12, 1829	-----	300	a	
Nov. 19, 1827	-----	400	a	
July 9, 1829	-----	58	a	
July 9, 1829	-----	20	a	
Jan. 15, 1833	-----	110	a	
St. John Reformed Church records, Orwigsburg, Pa.				
Communicants				

1836	1838	1839	1840	Frederick Hesser
1836	1838	1839	1840	Catharine Hesser (his wife)

June 24, 1846. Frederick Hesser, age 83 years, buried by  
Rev. Hoffmeier. (Date is date of burial.)

1820 Census, Orwigsburg, Pa.

Frederick Hesser:	Under 10	10-16	26-45	45 up
Male	2	1	1	1 up
Females	1	1		1 up

It would seem from information at hand that Frederick (3) lived for some time in Germantown, Pa. and then moved Westward to Orwigsburg, Schuylkill County, Pa. and settled there. Here he married Mary Elizabeth Reed Boyer, daughter of Philip Boyer and Mary Reed. Philip Boyer<sup>2</sup> was a civilian patriot and assisted the American Cause by furnishing food to the Army in Penna. He took the oath of allegiance in Lebanon County, Pa., June 1, 1778. He married Mary Reed of Scotch parentage in 1746 and for this was dropped from his own Communion, but he never became a Presbyterian. He had one son in the army.

While Frederick Hesser (3) married a second time at the age of seventy-eight, Catharine Millot, April 8, 1832, who lived at Seven Stars above Schuylkill Haven, Pa., all of his children were born to the first wife, Mary Elizabeth Reed Boyer-Hesser. Frederick (3) had a large family. Mrs. Margaret S. Frailey (Fort Madison, Iowa) a great granddaughter of Frederick (3), in a letter dated December 17, 1922, to your author, says, "My grandmother was the daughter of Frederick Hesser (3). She was one of thirteen children. I have heard her say, that some of the older children moved away before she was born and that she had never seen or known them. It was such a journey in those days—only to Ohio, that it was never made." The following list of children is reliable, with the possible exception of Joseph<sup>1</sup> which is marked with a question, although there is little doubt he also belongs to Frederick (3). There may have been some other children.

Frederick Hesser (3), having served his country in so many capacities was very well known throughout the country. At the time

<sup>2</sup>Penna. Archives, V. 13, page 419, 2nd series. Also Notes and Queries and History of Lebanon County.

<sup>1</sup>(Ms. genealogy Hammer family.)

The will of Johann Hammer of Orwigsburg, Aug. 5, 1839, (probate Nov. 21), names among others, Johann Hesser, son of his deceased daughter, Hannah. The husband's name was Joseph. They had children which are named in the Hammer genealogy.



of his death, many of the papers carried obituary notices and these give some historical information that is interesting. For that reason I am quoting a few:

*Miners' Journal, Pottsville, Pa.*

"Frederick Hesser, Orwigsburg, June 23, 1846, in his 83rd year, drummer boy Revolutionary War, in battles of Germantown, Monmouth, etc., second Sheriff of Schuylkill County, and at time of death Court Crier, on Monday night at midnight his wife feeling indisposed he left his bed to procure medical assistance for her, but was dissuaded and went back to bed apparently well, but not long afterwards was discovered dead. He left many friends and no enemies, was a man of unperturbable self-possession. Many anecdotes attest his peculiarity; during the battle of Germantown he was discovered by some comrades sitting on the ground, asked if he was frightened he said, no, but that the enemy had shot away his drum-sticks and "spoiled his business." He married when 78 years of age. The members of the Washington Artillerists, the Marion Rifles, and the National Light Infantry repaired to Orwigsburg on Thursday last to pay their last tribute to him." (He died nearly 12 p. m. which no doubt accounts for the discrepancy between dates given of death.)

*Stimme d. Volks, Orwigsburg*

"Frederick Hesser, Orwigsburg, June 22, 1846, age 83, one of the oldest inhabitants of Orwigsburg, served in the Sheriff's Office and for the past 35 years was Court Crier. Fell asleep gently and without pain between 11 and 12 p. m. on the same day on which he still walked the streets of the town in his usual sprightly manner."

*Readinger Adler*

"Frederick Hesser, June 22, 1846, in Orwigsburg, died, a soldier in the Revolution, in his 83rd year, one of the oldest inhabitants of Orwigsburg," etc.

*Will Book, Schuylkill County II, P. 42*

Jan. 8, 1846 (probate June 27, 1846). Will of Frederick Hesser of Orwigsburg. Makes his wife Catharine Ext. and gives her all the household furniture and the use of the house in Orwigsburg until after her death or marriage, when the house and lot are to be sold and the proceeds divided share and share alike to the children.

The author is quoting from other historical documents which throw further light on the colorful career of Frederick (3):

*History of Schuylkill County, 1916, p. 233*

Says that the father of Henry B. Hesser was Frederick Hesser (3) of Orwigsburg, the drummer boy of the Revolution, who for some years had lived at Germantown, removing thence to Orwigsburg, where he died and was buried. Was a musician of ability, both vocal and instrumental; especially known as a church singer.

*McCool, History of Schuylkill County, Chapter VI.*

Frederick Hesser, a Revolutionary soldier, enlisted as a drummer boy and for many years after settling in Schuylkill County he was Court Crier at Orwigsburg and was in the custom of opening the court by regularly and sonorously rolling his drum.

*Smith papers M 170. 19/M15, Historical Society, Schuylkill County.*

Notes of testimony in a suit at law, Comm. Vs. Frederick Hesser (Before 1811). A warrant had been issued by Jacob Krebs Esq., a local magistrate, against a certain Daniel Mayer, at the instance of Elizabeth Batteiger. The warrant was given to Hesser to serve, he being a constable in Brunswick at the time, and he did arrest Mayer but the latter managed to escape at a tavern on the road to the place of trial while in Hesser's custody. Hence the arrest of Hesser himself.

*Pulsifer Papers, Historical Society, Schuylkill County.*

Fourth of July, Orwigsburg, 1845. At a meeting of citizens including the National Grays of Orwigsburg, brass band, etc., three soldiers of the Revolution were made Vice-Presidents of the meeting, Frederick (3) was one of the three.

Copy of a letter written by William Reiff Hesser, a grandson of Frederick (3) dated, Reading, Pa., Sept. 2, 1912, from his home "The Doerrheim," Reading, Pa., to W. F. Hesser, Reading, Pa.

"My Dear Will:—

"Enclosed herewith, find what I can give you in regard to my grand-father's record:—

"Grandfather Hesser was born July 6, 1763, in Providence Township, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County) Penna. Died in Orwigsburg, Pa.

"In the declaration necessary to a pension he does not say anything about being at the battle of Trenton, Dec. 25, 1776, and yet we have a Hessian musket that he had given him by a Captain Green, and that came from that fight.

"It is now with the Schuylkill County Historical Society, and was a most villianous kicker, as I know from my



boyhood days when we sneaked it and went out "shootin' ". It had been converted into a shotgun by an unsentimental uncle (William Frailey) and bore on it a mark that father Hesser inflicted upon it by striking at a rabbit, and hitting instead a stone when he was a boy. Grandfather, Frederick Hesser (3) must have overlooked the fact, or the War Department clerks accidentally skipped it when making the record:— he was a splendid drummer, even in his old days, as I heard from old residents, and so too were two of his sons, my father and his brother Charles, afterward a Bishop in the Evangelical Church.

"I hope the girls will make the membership in D. A. R. as these papers have gotten others of our "freundschaft" in all right.

Affectionately,

Uncle Reiff"

*Archives Sixth Ser., Vol. I, 484*

Enlistments Militia in U. S. Service, Aug. 5, 1777

John Hesser

Frederick Hesser

Abraham Doll

This would be Frederick (3) drummer, and his brother John (3), the fifer, and possibly one of his relatives, Abraham Doll, all enlisting at the same time.

*Orphans Court, Schuylkill County, File boxes Register's Office.*

Filed July 11, 1846. Inventory Estate of Frederick Hesser (3), deceased, of Orwigsburg. Total amounts to \$73.87½, includes one musket.

Aug. 1, 1846. Vendue list Estate of Frederick Hesser (3) of Orwigsburg, Catharine Hesser, Extr. Shows that William Frailey bought his musket for \$1.75 and powder horn for 12½ cents, and that a Frederick Millot bought quite a few items.

*The Inquirer, Pottsville, Pa.*

To mark Drummer Boy's Grave

Oct. 10—"Tomorrow afternoon at Orwigsburg, Mahantongo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Pottsville, will visit the cemetery where is the grave of Frederick Hesser (3), a Veteran of the War of Independence, and honor his memory by placing upon it a Pennsylvania State Marker. Hesser served with General Washington as a drummer boy at the age of 13 years, experiencing the hardships of the battles of Trenton and Valley Forge."

## Tombstone Inscription

Frederick Hesser (3) lies buried in St. John's Reformed Cemetery, Orwigsburg, Penna. A beautiful white marble tombstone marks his final resting place. The tombstone was erected by his great-grandson, the late William H. Hesser of Freehold, New Jersey. The inscription reads

(Flag)

Frederick Hesser  
Born July 6, 1763  
Died June 23, 1846  
Drummer Boy  
American Revolution  
Penna. Archives  
Ser. 6, Vol. I, Page 484

The Frederick Hesser (3) family was prominent and numerous in Orwigsburg, Pa., in the early nineteenth Century. We find many tombstone inscriptions in both the Evangelical and Reformed Cemeteries. These tombstone inscriptions will prove interesting to members of this branch of the family and so are recorded here.

*Evangelical Cemetery Inscriptions*

Frederick Hesser, b. Aug. 24, 1817, d. Dec. 19, 1874, age 57/3/5

Rebecca Clara, inf. da. of Charles and Hanna Hesser, b. Apr. 2, 1838, d. Oct. 4, 1839, age 1/6/2

Carl (Charles) preacher of the Evang. Church, b. Nov. 5, 1807, d. Oct. 12, 1845, age 37/11/7 erected by the members of Emanuel Church of the Evangelical Association in Philadelphia.

Hanna Elizabeth, da. of John and Mary Hesser, b. Oct. 26, 1843, d. Jan. 17, 1852, Age 8/2/22

Hanna Elizabeth, da. of Frederick and Elizabeth Hesser, b. Sept. 8, 1850, d. Apr. 5, 1852, age 1/6/27

John Hesser, b. Mar. 12, 1821, d. Jan. 13, 1845, age 23/10/1

Hanna Hesser, w. of Franklin H. Hesser, b. 1810, d. 1892

Louisa Hesser, b 1858, d. 1887

Franklin H. Hesser, b. May 12, 1820, d. Feb. 19, 1874, Age 53/9/7

John Shoener, Jr., b. Mar. 27, 1801, d. Apr. 2, 1865, Age 65/0/6

Catharine, wife of John Shoener, Jr., b. Aug. 4, 1800, d. Aug. 1, 1874, age 73/11/28.



*St. John's Reformed Cemetery Inscriptions*

(Flag) Frederick Hesser, b. July 6, 1763, d. June 23, 1846,  
drummer boy American Revolution

Rebecca Frailey, b. Jan. 6, 1810, d. Oct. 23, 1890, age  
80/9/17

William Frailey, b. Mar. 30, 1800, d. Sept. 19, 1859, age  
59/5/19

William Bigler, s. of the above, d. Apr. 1, 1835, age 1/4/9

*Old Lutheran Cemetery Inscription*

Hanna Hesser, nee Hammer, b. Aug. 9, 1797, d. Apr. 25,  
1823, age 25/8 less 1 day.

A number of Hesser marriages occurred in Orwigsburg and some of them are recorded here.

*Marriages*

(Stimme d. Volks.)

Rebecca Hesser and William Frailey, both of Orwigsburg, June 31, 1833. (Also announced in the Miners Journal where date is given as June 30.)

Henry B. Hesser and Rebecca Schumaker, both of Orwigsburg, Oct. 7, 1837.

John Hesser and Maria Schwalm, both of Orwigsburg, Dec. 18, 1841. (Also announced in the Freiheits Presse).

Henry Hoffman and the widow Maria Hesser, nee Schwalm, both of Orwigsburg, February 17, 1848. (Also in the Miners Journal).

Frederick Hesser and Elizabeth Schwenk, both of Orwigsburg, Oct. 1, 1846.

Franklin H. Hesser of Pottstown, Pa., (Montgomery County, came to Orwigsburg) and Hannah Facht of Orwigsburg, Nov. 26, 1850.

Several years ago, a descendant of Frederick Hesser (3), wrote me from Norristown, Pa., stating that she had an old picture of General George Washington and Frederick Hesser (3) his drummer boy. I made a special trip to her home in Norristown to see it. It was printed probably about 1886 and was yellow with age, but very well preserved. Mrs. Mary H. Wood, owner of the picture, was kind enough to have a photostat copy made and it is here reproduced for your enjoyment. It seems that this idealized picture of President George Washington and his Drummer Boy (Frederick Hesser (3) with the poem (about Fred and his brother John) printed to the left of the picture and "an Historical Reminiscence" printed to the right, was sold about the time the foundation was laid for a proposed mem-

orial chapel at Valley Forge in 1886. These pictures with the poem by James M. Guthrie, Editor of the Literary Treasury, West Chester, Pa., were sold for the benefit of the Valley Forge Memorial Monument Chapel in order to insert marble tablets in commemoration of the services of the two youthful heroes mentioned in the poem, and others equally worthy. A statement printed on the picture says that "the purchaser of this, for ten cents, secures a "brick" in the memorial." Following is the poem and the "Historical Reminiscence," and while some of it may seem a little picturesque, nevertheless it tells an historic story of courage and patriotism of which all Hessers can be proud.

*WASHINGTON AND THE DRUMMER BOY AT  
VALLEY FORGE*

Sold for benefit of the Valley Forge Memorial Monument Chapel in order to insert marble tablets in commemoration of the services of the two youthful heroes mentioned herein, and others equally as worthy.

The purchaser of this, for ten cents, secures a "Brick" in the memorial.

By JAMES M. GUTHRIE  
Editor Literary Treasury

Fred Hesser was a drummer boy,  
And served at Valley Forge,  
One day his heart beat fast with joy  
When, coming through the gorge,  
He met the chieftan, Washington,  
Who stopped and kindly said,  
"What are you doing here, my son?"  
As Fred made bare his head.

The boy stood still, with hat in hand,  
With tearful downcast eyes,  
And said, when words he could command,  
Recovering from surprise—  
"Commander, I am on my way  
To furlough at the Trappe;  
Till I get well—the surgeons say  
I've beat my last drum tap."



“There my dear parents live and they  
Are always good and kind;  
But now my country I obey,  
And will not be behind  
In marching on to Liberty,  
In struggling for the right,  
No matter what hard times I see,  
Or what may be my plight.”

“My brother John and I, last year  
Determined to enlist;  
We marched from home without a fear  
Our country to assist.  
We joined your ranks, the foe to fight,  
When many did despair;  
We crossed with you that stormy night,  
The icy Delaware.”

“I have a gun from Trenton town,  
A trophy of the fight,  
But I have laid the musket down  
To drum with all my might.  
An Hessian prisoner taught me how  
To beat well the drum,  
And now I play what scares Sir Howe  
And makes the children run.”

“The Hessian troops at Brandywine,  
Just as they crossed the creek,  
Discharged a volley at our line  
Which broke my best drum stick;  
We paid them back at Mifflin fort  
Where fell their Count Dunop!  
And kept two British ships from port,  
Our gunners blew them up.”

“Twas then I got the worse for wear,  
Was listed with the sick;  
But I have tried my ills to bear  
And to my duties stick.  
I’m sorry now I have to go,  
And leave at Valley Forge,  
Before we’ve sent the foreign foe  
Back to King Tyrant George.”

The poor boy shivered as he spoke,  
His temples throbbed with pain;  
But as he felt a gentle stroke,  
His heart grew light again.  
A hand upon his head was laid,  
The other raised on high,  
By Washington, who softly said,  
"Lord, Thou are ever nigh."

"I've walked this gorge in deepest gloom,  
Praying to see some light;  
And here I've found the blaze of noon  
To drive away my night.  
A little child shall lead them—Yea,  
Hast made my way most clear;  
Why should I ever feel dismay—  
Why have a single fear,"

"When lads like this are Davids bold,  
Whose courage does not fail  
In battle fire, in piercing cold,  
Though hell and earth assail.  
Lord, bless this hero boy; may he  
Live to behold the day  
When right shall gain the victory  
O'er all Columbia."

With feeling heart Washington saw  
The drummer start to go,  
With limping gait, limbs nude and raw,  
With blood-prints on the snow;  
At his headquarters, where he gave  
The boy all needed care—  
And Fred long saw the banner wave  
For which he suffered there.

### *AN HISTORICAL REMINISCENCE*

"In the fall of the year, 1776, two brothers, Frederick and John Hesser, aged 13 and 15 years, respectively, enlisted in the Continental Army. These soldier boys started from Trappe, Montgomery County, Pa. They were with Washington on that eventful night, December 25, 1776, which was cold, dark and stormy, when he and his little army of ragged but true patriots crossed the swollen Delaware amidst floating ice, entered Trenton, surprised and defeated the British



forces which were chiefly Hessians. During the struggle, Frederick Hesser came into possession of a brass mounted flint-lock musket which had belonged to one of the enemy. He took care of it and brought it home when shortly after the battle he was sent on to the Trappe with a guard having in charge a lot of prisoners. While there, an Hessian gave him complete instruction in the art of drumming. After remaining at the Trappe for a while, he was transferred to Washington's main army, and acting in the capacity of a drummer, participated in the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, where one of his drum sticks was shot from his hand, a loss which made Fred feel very indignant.

"Later in the fall he was sent to Fort Mifflin, on the Delaware and was a participant in the terrible repulse given to the British and Hessians in their attempt to reduce the fort on the evening of October 22, 1777. Count Dunop, the Hessian leader, fell mortally wounded, and four hundred of his men were either killed or wounded in the assault in less than an hour. Two days later, the British general made an attack on Fort Mifflin in the night. Fred often described the action. The British ships came up the river slowly with scarcely a breath of wind stirring to sail them. At length, the fight commenced with severe cannonading, and the British and Hessians were repulsed. Lieut. Col. ———, of ———, Pa. was in the fort commanding the garrison. He sent a red-hot shot into the *Augusta*, a ship of 64 guns which set her on fire and she blew up. A like fate befell the *Merlin*, 18 guns. The repulse was complete and caused General Howe much chagrin. After this Fred beat the drum at Valley Forge, and having become the worse for "wear and tear" at Fort Mifflin, he was sent home to recruit his health.

"After the war he became a resident of the portion of the State which now embraces Schuylkill County and was sheriff from 1814 to 1817, which office he filled with ability.

"He never abandoned his drum on which he had few equals and no superiors. It is well remembered that as crier of the court, which position he held until the day of his death, he was accustomed to announce its assembling by beating his drum.

"When he died he was 88 years of age and was in full possession of all his faculties. He was buried with military honors at Orwigsburg, Schuylkill Co., Pa. by a batallion from Pottsville.

"The elder brother, John, was separated from Frederick after the Battle of Trenton and was assigned to another part of the army. He served as a fifer throughout the Revolution. Having acquired a liking for military life, he remained in the service until the Battle of New Orleans. Here he saw his last service. He said when the British came up towards Jackson's Cotton Fort, they presented a magnificent sight, paying no attention whatever to our artillery. All the while "Ole Hickory" went up and down the line commanding in emphatic language to hold their small arms until a certain distance was reached. At last, however, they let loose and history has told the rest.

"John came home when he was a man 55 years of age, having been 40 years in the service of his country. On the morning of every eighth of January, Fred, with his drum and John with his fife, would celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. This was kept up during their lives.

"The fact of the two boys but 13 and 15, mere children, one might say, entering the service of their country and taking part in regular battles with a powerful and determined foe, exhibits a degree of patriotism and hardihood that would do honor to the famous Spartans of old, and shows of what material those heroes were made who fought for this great country and transmitted to their children inheritances of Liberty and Independence."

### *REMEMBERING VALLEY FORGE*

"Workmen are engaged at Valley Forge in building a Memorial Chapel on the famous camp ground of Washington, 1777-8, as a memorial to those who in this darkest epoch of the American Revolution by their sacrifice wrought out to us Liberty and Independence. The building will have a high tower and be handsome in appearance. The entire outside surface is of blue Pennsylvania marble which never tarnished and the blocks from corner stone to cap stone are being inscribed with epitaphs, and thus make unique memorials in honor of those who suffered or died at Valley Forge in the Revolution.

"D. F. Barlotte of Philadelphia is the architect and the building is going up through the efforts of the Rev. J. M. Guthrie, Editor of



the Literary Treasury. The corner stone was laid on Tuesday, July 15, 1886, with religious and military services."

*Daily Local News, West Chester, Pa.*

11. FREDERICK HESSER (3) (Drummer boy in the Revolution) son of Frederick (2) saddler, born July 6, 1763; Trappe Pa., died June 23, 1846 Orwigsburg, Pa., he married (1) Mary Elizabeth Reed Boyer and (2) Catharine Millot.

*Issue: \_children to his first wife Mary Elizabeth Reed Boyer.*

54. JOSEPH (4), b. —, d. —, m. Hanna Hammer.
55. CATHARINE (4), b. Aug. 4, 1800, d. Aug. 1, 1874, buried Evang. cemetery, Orwigsburg, Pa.; married John Shoener.
56. WILHELM (4) (William), baptised April 6, 1801 at the Reformed Church, Orwigsburg, Pa., probably died in infancy or childhood.
57. SARAH (4), (Sallie), baptised Sept. 24, 1805 at the Reformed Church, Orwigsburg, Pa., probably died at an early age.
58. CHARLES (4) (Karl), b. Nov. 5, 1807, d. Oct. 12, 1845; preacher in the Evangelical Church. Tombstone erected in Orwigsburg, Pa., by the members of the Emanuel Church of the Evang. Association in Phila.
59. REBECCA (4), b. Jan. 6, 1810, d. Oct. 23, 1890, m. William Frailey, buried Orwigsburg Reformed Cemetery.
60. FREDERICK (4), b. Oct. 31, 1813, d. before 1818.
61. FREDERICK (4), b. Feb. 2, 1819; d. Nov. 11, 1880; buried Ft. Madison, Iowa; m. Susanna Everhart May 29, 1848.
62. HENRICH (4) (Henry Boyer), b. July 2, 1815; d. 1890; m. Rebecca Schumacher, Orwigsburg, Pa., Oct. 7, 1837.
63. JOHN W. (4), b. Dec. 4, 1816 in Jackson township, Lebanon County, Pa.; m. Susanna Merkel; lived in Minersville, Pa.; d. in Shenandoah, Pa.
64. FREDERICK (4), b. Feb. 2, 1818; bap. Reformed Church, Orwigsburg, Pa., d. 1874; m. Elizabeth Schwenk, Oct. 1, 1845.
65. JOHN (4), b. March 12, 1821; d. Jan. 13, 1845; m. Maria Schwalm on Dec. 18, 1841. To this union was born one daughter, Elizabeth, b. 1843, d. 1852.
66. MARY (4) (Polly), b. —; received her share of her father's estate in 1856; m. — Herner, widowed and married Charles Enoch.

#### References:

Biographical sketch and pictures of Frederick (3) will be found in this book—also his Revolutionary War record.

58. CHARLES (4) (KARL) HESSER, (Evangelical Preacher) son of Frederick (3) (drummer-boy), b. Nov. 5, 1807, Orwigsburg, Pa.; married 1828 to Hanna Wagner. He was a prominent minister in the Evangelical association for 12 or 13 years and died at the age of 35 years, 11 months, and 7 days. The following report of his death as reported by the Publishing House of the Evangelical Association, Cleveland, Ohio, is given:

"His death was caused in the following manner: On the 6th of October, 1843, he and several of his ministerial brethren started in a two horse carriage for General Conference, which was to be held in the State of Ohio, on the following day. They dined with Daniel Zartman, and starting from there, they drove down a hill when the tongue of their carriage got loose, touching the horses, one of them kicked so furiously as to hit and break Rev. Hesser's leg, who was holding the reins. A fever ensued in consequence of his wound and in five days he died, namely, October 12. His remains were taken to Orwigsburg, his home, and buried there the following Sunday, October 15th, in the burying grounds of the Evangelical Association; Rev. Sensel preached the funeral sermon, as the record states, to a very large and deeply affected concourse of people. Rev. Hesser entered the itinerancy of our church in 1831 and served a number of appointments, and in 1837 he was sent for the first time to Philadelphia, where he labored for two successive years with great results and general satisfaction. In about 1840, he was stationed the second time in Philadelphia, and in 1842 and 1843, to the end of his life, he served Lehigh circuit. The record states that Rev. Hesser was about five feet and eight inches high, rather slender, sharp, clear eyes, dark complexion, and of a cheerful disposition. He was a man who had few enemies and everybody for a friend."

The record closes with the following words: "cheerful and courageous, as he had been in life, so he was also in death; he died in the triumph of faith, as a conqueror on the field of the Gospel. His dying words were: 'Glory to the Lamb for ever and ever!'"

*Issue:*

67. AMANDA (5), b. —, m. John Clapham.

68. WILLIAM CHARLES (5), b. 1833, Mifflinburg, Pa.; d. same place 1906, m. Ella C. Templin; minister of the Methodist Church.



- 69. EMMA (5), b. —; m. William Curven.
- 70. MATILDA (5), died in early childhood.
- 71. JEREMIAH (5), died in early childhood.
- 72. REBECCA (5), died in early childhood.

#### References:

Further biographical material for the above will be found in this book.

68. WILLIAM CHARLES HESSER (5), Methodist Minister, son of Rev. Charles (Karl) Hesser (4), born June 6, 1833 in Mifflinburg, Pa.; died January 7, 1906; buried Woodlawn Cemetery, Mifflinburg, Pa.; m. Nov. 17, 1853, to Ellen Clarissa Templin.

The Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in their printed Minutes of the 38th Session held in the First M. E. Church, Tyrone, Pa., March 28th to April 3rd, 1906, recites the following tribute to Rev. William Charles Hesser:

"As for myself, I shall be satisfied if when my life-work is done I shall find a resting place in a quiet grave, by the side of my friends and kindred, to wait in peaceful expectation the coming of that day, beyond whose splendid dawn no night shall follow." Such was the language, late in the afternoon of his life, of the Rev. William Charles Hesser, the son of Rev. Charles and Hannah Hesser, who was born in Mifflinburg, Pa., June 6, 1833. His earlier education was secured in Mifflinburg's public schools and academy, after which in the latter institution he taught several terms.

"November 17, 1853, he united in marriage with Miss Ella C. Templin, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Templin, of Mifflinburg. Mrs. Hesser was a devoted wife that shared her husband's joys and sorrows to the end of his career.

"There were born unto them six children, as follows: Charles, who died at the age of 7 years; Clara M., wife of Mr. M. B. Williams; Minnie S., wife of Mr. S. E. Rich; William H., Charles T., and Frank L.

"At the age of seventeen years he was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church in Mifflinburg, where he held his membership as a layman until he was called to the ministry. In a Quarterly Conference in that church, December 11, 1858, he was given Local Preacher's license, after having been duly examined by Rev. Thompson Mitchell, the Presiding Elder. December 10, 1859, the

Fourth Quarterly Conference of the same charge recommended him to the itinerancy. After his call to the ministry he attended Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., and completed his course there in 1860, and joined the East Baltimore Conference and served as pastor the following appointments: 1860-61, Middleburg; 1862, Berwick; 1863-64, Shippen (now Emporium); 1865, Lycoming; 1866-67, Orangeville; 1868-70, White Haven; 1871-73, Shippensburg; 1874-76, Jersey Shore; 1877-79, Great Island, 1880-82, White Haven; 1883, Northumberland; 1884-85, Jeanesville and Audenried; 1886-88, Hanover and New Oxford; 1889-93, Mechanicsburg; 1894-96, Montoursville; 1897-98, Hughesville; 1899-1900, Watontown. In 1901 he took a superannuated relation and went back to his old home in Mifflinburg to live and to preach as his strength and opportunity permitted. 'In the pulpit he was a power. His natural ability and scholarly acquirements were always in evidence in his sermons, and as an impromptu speaker, he had but few equals.

"He was always a close student and had acquired a fund of general information which made him an exceeding entertaining conversationalist and his tenacious memory enabled him to speak knowingly of people and incidents of three score years and more ago.

"He was a man of many talents. He was not only a preacher of a superior order, but a musician. He could write music, lead an orchestra or choir. He could go into a factory and build a wagon, into a studio and paint a picture. With all this he was one of the most tender-hearted of men, who was ever ready to sympathize with the misfortunes of all.

"On Sunday evening, September 3, 1905, after attending church services, he was stricken with paralysis, affecting his left side, and confining him to his bed or chair for eighteen weeks.

"When he saw his work on earth was ended, like Paul, he became anxious to be liberated from the body, and go to that country of which we are told there is no sickness. On Sunday, January 7, 1906, while apparently improving in health, about 1 p. m. he was taken with neuralgia of the heart, and in a few minutes departed this life.

"January 10, 1906, at 3 p. m. his remains were taken to the Mifflinburg Methodist Episcopal church, where an impressive funeral service was held as follows: Prayer by the Rev. W. A. Houck, followed by short addresses by the Rev. T. S. Wilcox, D. D., the Rev.



W. P. Eveland, Ph. D. and the pastor, Rev. V. T. Rue. After a prayer by the Rev. H. C. Harman, the casket containing his body was taken to the Woodland Cemetery in Mifflinburg, and in the presence of his friends, relatives and visiting clergymen, the pastors of the town acting as pall bearers, his remains laid in their final resting place, while the Rev A. S. Bowman conducted the funeral services."

*Issue:*

- 73. CHARLES HENRY (6), died at the age of seven.
- 74. CLARA MATILDA (6), b. —, m. Newton B. Williams.
- 75. MINNIE ANNA (6), b. —, m. Stiles B. Rich.
- 76. WILLIAM HENRY (6), b. —, m. Katherine Noe, res. Westfield, N. J.
- 77. CHARLES TURNER (6), b. —, m. Anna Rea Bower.
- 78. FRANK L. (6), b. —, m. Mabel Hess.

61. FREDERICK (4), born February 2, 1819, Orwigsburg, Pa., died November 11, 1880 Ft. Madison, Iowa. Married Susanna Everhart, May 29, 1848; Susannah born January 7, 1825, died October 20, 1905.

*Issue:*

- 79. ELIZABETH HESSER (5), b. January 15, 1850; d. June 24, 1913; m. Mr. Mason; a daughter, Mrs. Kuno Doerr, So. Pasadena, California.
- 80. JANE HESSER (5), born Jan. 29, 1852; d. June 13, 1924; m. Mr. Coriell; res. Santa Monica, Cal.; a daughter, Mrs. Alice Coriell Norton, Uplands, Cal.
- 81. CHARLES H. HESSER (5), b. Dec. 24, 1853; d. Apr. 8, 1898; res. Chicago, Illinois; no issue.
- 82. JAMES E. HESSER (5), b. Apr. 25, 1856; d. Mar. 3, 1896; res. Courtland, Kansas; a son Frederick in New York City.
- 83. FREDERICK HESSER, JR. (5), b. Feb. 25, 1859; d. Feb. 1, 1864.
- 84. WILLIAM HESSER (5), b. Mar. 20, 1861; d. —; a son, Frederick, officer in the U. S. Navy.
- 85. SUSANNA HESSER (5), b. Sept. 11, 1863; d. Jan. 2, 1932; daughter, Adelaide B., b. May 26, 1886, m. H. K. Denmead, res. Fort Madison, Iowa.
- 86. BENJAMIN HESSER (5), b. Jan. 26, 1866; m. Anna Norton, Dec. 4, 1895; d. Mar. 18, 1943; res. Waterloo, Iowa; a son, Harry Hesser (6), Keokuk, Iowa.

87. REBECCA HESSER (5), b. Jan. 15, 1868; d. Feb. 16, 1931; res. Fort Madison, Iowa.

86. BENJAMIN HESSER (5), b. Jan. 26, 1866; d. Mar. 18, 1943; res. Waterloo, Iowa; m. Anna Norton Dec. 4, 1895.

*Issue:*

88. HARRY NORTON HESSER (6), b. Dec. 1, 1905, res. 123 High St., Keokuk, Iowa; Issue—three girls.

89. JAMES E. HESSER (5), b. Apr. 25, 1856; d. Mar. 3, 1896; res. Courtland, Kansas.

*Issue:*

90. FREDERICK HESSER (6), b. —; in business in New York.

62. HENRY (Henrich) BOYER HESSER (4), son of Frederick (3), the Revolutionary drummerboy, born July 2, 1815, Orwigsburg, Pa. He moved to Schuylkill Haven, Pa., about 1844 and entered the service of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company. Died 1890; married Rebecca L. Shoemaker Oct. 7, 1837. He was chosen Burgess for Schuylkill Haven in 1865 and was master of Page Lodge No. 270, Free and Accepted Masons, about 1853 and was also Treasurer of the Lodge. In the "Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County Pennsylvania," published in 1911 (p. 956) it speaks in glowing terms of Henry B. Hesser and his splendid family of children. The Blue Book of Schuylkill County (pp. 151 and 152) also refers to him among the first settlers of the county as well as "The History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe, Schuylkill and Carbon Counties" (p. 516). He was sometimes referred to as Captain Hesser and served the P. & R. Ry. Company about forty-five years holding responsible positions in the company to the end of his life.

*Issue:*

91. ALBERT A. (5), b. —; d. —; m. Alice Cox, was for many years an employee of the P. & R. Ry.; was superintendent of the Mahanoy and Shamokin Division. Buried in Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

92. CHARLES FREDERICK (5), b. —; d. Dec. 20, 1907; m. —; he was a prominent business man, lived and died in Cincinnati, Ohio.

93. WILLIAM REIFF (5), b. —; d. —; m. —; res. Reading, Pa.; was in the service of the P. & R. Ry. for twenty-three years holding important positions. He left no children.



94. HENRY ADDA (5), b. —; d. April 1910; he was in the service of the P. & R. Ry. for many years. M. —; two daughters were born.

95. ELIZABETH (5), b. 1838; d. —; she never married; res. Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

96. EMMA R. (5), b. 1840; d. —; m. Henry B. Zulick, res. Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

91. ALBERT A. HESSER (5), son of Henry B. Hesser (4), born in Schuylkill Haven, Pa., held many important posts on the P. & R. Ry. He was for some years Station Agent at Schuylkill Haven. Married Alice Coxe.

*Issue:*

97. HARRY D. (6), unmarried; res. Philadelphia, Pa.

98. ALBERT A. JR. (6)—deceased.

99. MARION C. (6)—deceased.

100. WILLIAM C. (6)—deceased.

92. CHARLES FREDERICK HESSER (5), b. —; d. Dec. 20, 1907; res., Cincinnati, Ohio; m. —

*Issue:*

101. WALTER GUY (6), b. 1871 in Cincinnati, Ohio; residence, Louisville, Ky.

102. DAISY (6), b. 1874; res. Attleboro, Mass.; married to Mr. Bliss.

103. GENEVIEVE (6), born 1884; res. Martinsburg, W. Va.; married to Mr. McLanahan.

101. WALTER GUY HESSER (6), born 1871 in Cincinnati, Ohio, son of Charles Frederick Hesser, married to Ethelda Daggett-Hesser; residence Louisville, Ky.

*Issue:*

104. CHARLES LEE (7), born July 19, 1895, Fort Wayne, Ind.

105. HOWARD MILLEKIN (7), b. May 11, 1898, Hamilton, Ohio.

106. JEROME GREENWOOD (7), b. April 30, 1902, Louisville, Ky.

107. JUDITH BROADBENT (7), b. May 28, 1905, Louisville, Ky.

63. JOHN W. HESSER (4) son of Frederick (3) the drummer-boy, born Dec. 4, 1816 in Jackson township, Lebanon County, Pa., and baptized by Rev. Von Hof; married Susanna Merkel who was born May 8, 1820 in Mannheim township, Schuylkill county, Pa.,

and was baptized by the Rev. William Mennig. Her father was Philip Merkel and her mother was Rosina Cornberger (Berger). John W. (4) lived in Minersville, Pa., and died in Shenandoah, Pa. (The author for various reasons is assuming that John W. (4) was a son of Frederick (3), the drummer-boy. John W. (4) could have been a son of John (4) who was a son of John (3), the fifer in the Revolution)

*Issue:*

108. CHARLES HENRY (5), b. Dec. 24, 1839, in Minersville, Schuylkill county, Pa.; m. Sarah Rebecca Reed, April 9, 1858; d. Pottsville, Pa.; res. Minersville, Pa.
109. WILLIAM JAMES (5), b. Sept. 17, 1841, Minersville, Pa.; m. ———; d. Oct. 11, 1911, Norristown, Pa.
110. JOHN WESLEY (5), b. July 22, 1843, Minersville, Pa.; m. ———; d. Camden, N. J.; res. Minersville, Pa.
111. ALBERT G. (5), b. Nov. 27, 1846, Minersville, Pa.; no further information.
112. FRANKLIN CASE (5), b. Sept. 20, 1851, Minersville, Pa.; no further information.
113. JONATHAN DAVID (5), b. Oct. 16, 1855, Minersville, Pa.; d. Cressona, Pa.; no further information.
114. THOMAS JEFFERSON (5), b. Oct. 19, 1858, Minersville, Pa.; d. Riverside, Cal.; no further information.
115. RICHARD P. (5), b. ———; d. Arizona; issue, a son; no further information.
116. MARY A. (5), b. ———; Minersville, Pa.; m. ——— Porter; d. Philadelphia, Pa.; issue Emma who married E. B. Doll.
117. SOPHIA (5), born — Minersville, Pa.; married ——— Bowman.
108. CHARLES HENRY (5), b. Dec. 24, 1838 Minersville, Pa.; m. Sarah Rebecca Reed, daughter of Henry and Mary Reed of Llewellyn, Pa., by the Rev. M. Sheeleigh, pastor of Evg. English Lutheran Church; served with distinction in the Civil War with the First Defenders; res. Minersville; d. at Pottsville, Pa.

*Issue:*

118. HARVEY MILTON (6), b. Oct. 20, 1859; m. ———; d. Nov. 7, 1927; res. Pine Grove, Pa.
119. SUSAN (6), b. ———; m. ——— Reffert.



120. NETTIE IRENE (6), b. —; m. John Kellagher; issue, Mary Estelle who married Robert R. Shofer of Sinking Springs, Pa.
121. CHARLES H. (6), b. Dec. 22, 1865 at Llewellyn, Pa.; m. Henrietta M. Jacob, July 11, 1889; res. Albany, N. Y.
122. MINNIE (6), b. —; res. Pottsville, Pa.; never married.
118. HARVEY MILTON HESSER (6), b. Oct. 20, 1859, Llewellyn, Pa.; d. Nov. 7, 1927; res. Pine Grove, Pa.

*Issue:*

123. HARVEY A. HESSER (7), b. Sept. 8, 1894 Pine Grove, Pa.; m. Aug. 13, 1943 to Dorothy M. Dorr; no issue; Res. 200 Norman Court, Trenton, N. J.
124. CLYDE E. (7), b. June 21, 1883; res. Pine Grove, Pa.
125. EDNA (7), b. July 7, 1885; d. 1888.
126. MABEL A. (7), b. Nov. 26, 1887; m. — Lengle; res. Pine Grove, Pa.
127. JOSEPH H. (7), b. May 23, 1890; res. Pine Grove, Pa.
128. ROY E. (7), b. June 6, 1897; res. Pine Grove, Pa.
129. EVA M. (7), b. July 12, 1900; m. — Riland; res. Cressona, Pa.
130. HAZEL I. (7), b. Aug. 3, 1902; res. 1841, Erie Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
131. HILDA (7), b. April 8, 1905; m. — Langdon; res. 2825 Pleasant Ave., Hamilton, Ohio.
132. IRA S. (7), b. January 25, 1908; res. Ross, Ohio.
121. CHARLES H. HESSER (6), b. Dec. 22, 1865, Llewellyn, Pa.; m. Henrietta M. Jacob, July 11, 1889; res. Albany, N. Y.

*Issue:*

133. ELSIE M. (7), b. April 20, 1891 at Tremont, Pa.; m. Herbert M. Kutz; issue, Charles (8), Alan (8), Herbert (8)
134. HENRY C. (7), b. Feb. 28, 1897 at Nanticoke, Pa.; m. June 18, 1921 to Irene M. Gunster; res. 25 Walter St., Albany, N. Y.; issue, Shirley Irene (8), b. Sept. 8, 1922 at Wilkes-Barre, Pa. married to Lashely T. McDaniel 1944; Henrietta Ruth (8), b. Sept. 12, 1927 at Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
135. GORDON P. (7), b. — dead.
109. WILLIAM JAMES HESSER (5), b. Sept. 17, 1841, Minersville, Pa.; d. October 11, 1911, Norristown, Pa.

*Issue:*

136. ALBERT A. HESSER (6), b. —; res. Norristown, Pa.
137. FREDERICK U. (6), b. —

- 138. WILLIAM H. (6), b. ———
- 139. MINNIE E. (6), b. ———; m. ——— Walker.
- 140. SARAH E. (6), b. ———; m. ——— Lefevre
- 141. MARY H. (6), b. ———; m. ——— Wood; res 624 Kohn Street, Norristown, Pa.; issue, a daughter.

110. JOHN WESLEY HESSER (5), b. July 22, 1843; d. Camden, N. J.; res. Minersville, Pa.

*Issue:*

- 142. JOHN, JR. (6), no further information. There may have been other children.

64. FREDERICK HESSER (4), son of Frederick Hesser (3), the drummer-boy, born February 2, 1818, baptised in the Reformed Church, Orwigsburg, Pa., died 1874; married Elizabeth Schwenk, Oct. 1, 1845. The following biographical information is quoted from the "Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania:—"

"Frederick Hesser (4) followed a seafaring life for some time. In 1861, he located at Coal Run, in Northumberland County, where he found employment in the Collieries, and for some time he was engaged as slate picker boss at the Hickory Swamp Colliery. He was murdered Dec. 19, 1874 in the engine room of the Colliery, by the 'Molly Maguires.' Mr. Hesser was an intelligent and respected citizen, well known in this section in his day, having been elected coroner of the county in 1872, for a term of three years. He was a Republican in politics, in religion a member of the Evangelical Church. He married Elizabeth Schwenk, a native of Schuylkill County, and to them were born five children."

*Issue:*

- 143. MARY A. (5)
- 144. HANNA ELIZABETH (5), b. Sept. 8, 1850, d. Apr. 5, 1852.
- 145. JOHN F. (5), b. 1853 in Schuylkill County, Pa.; married Elizabeth Moll.
- 146. CHARLES H. (5)
- 147. GEORGE F. (5)

145. JOHN F. HESSER (5), son of Frederick Hesser (4), born 1853 in Schuylkill County, Pa., married Elizabeth Moll; d. ———;



residence, Shamokin, Pa. The following is from the history of Northumberland County:

"He came to Northumberland County with his father and attended the local schools until he commenced work as a slate picker at the Coal Run Colliery. When he became older, he was employed as a miner about four years and then went to Pearson, Lebanon County, Pa., where he was engaged for two years at the carpenters trade. Returning to his home district he followed his trade and assisted in the construction of the Hickory Ridge Breaker, having charge of part of the work. Upon its completion he remained there eleven years, as breaker boss, in 1898 taking his present position at the Hickory Swamp Colliery. He has sixty-five men in his charge as outside foreman, and he holds their respect and good will to a gratifying degree. Mr. Hesser is a member of the Independent Americans of Shamokin, and is a Republican in his political views."—History printed in 1911.

*Issue:*

148. DR. FREDERICK E. (6), b. —; res. Baltimore, Md. and Shamokin, Pa. *Issue:* one son, 749 DR. FREDERICK H. HESSER (7); res. Durham, N. C.
149. CHARLES HENRY (6), b. —; res. Milwaukee, Wis.
150. EMMA F. (6), b. —; m. Mr. Platt; res. Shamokin, Pa.
151. MARY E. (6), b. —; m. Mr. Mitchell; res. Shamokin, Pa.
152. ALBERT QUAY (6), b. —; (doctor); res. Shamokin, Pa.
153. LAURA B. (6) —

12. JACOB HESSER (3), pioneer, farmer and carpenter, son of Frederick (2) and Catharine Doll-Hesser, b. Feb. 17, 1773, La Trappe, Montgomery County,<sup>1</sup> Pa.; m. — 1794?; d. —; res. Newton Hamilton, Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa.

As previously stated, Jacob's (3) father, Frederick Hesser (2), located at La Trappe, Pa., and in the little growing village reared his family. Jacob (3) attended the little parish school which was built by the Augustus Lutheran Church. John Ludwig Voigt was the pastor at the time of his birth and probably baptized him as pastor Muhlenberg had moved to Philadelphia to preach at that time. In a little booklet entitled "The Shrine of Lutheranism" which is a history in miniature of the old Trappe Church (Augustus Lutheran

<sup>1</sup>St. Augustus Lutheran Church Records, P. 330, Trappe, Pa.

Church), the former pastor, William O. Fegley, D. D. says: "The first school house in Providence Township was built by Augustus Congregation on its ground near the Church in December 1742. It was constructed of logs with stone fire place and chimney, and a puncheon floor. A bare space of ground by the fire place was used by scholars to stick their quills to keep them pliable. Windows ran along the whole side from three to twelve inches high and upright sticks twelve inches apart supported oiled paper instead of window glass. Here school opened January 10, 1743 with Muhlenberg as teacher among other teachers.

"In 1750 a new log school house with living quarters and windows with sash and glass was erected. Here the Charity School was opened in 1754. Benjamin Franklin, Conrad Weiser, Esq., (Pastor Muhlenberg's father-in-law and famous as a negotiator between the Pennsylvania government and the Indian tribes), Provost William Smith of the Philadelphia Academy and Governor James Hamilton were among the trustees."

It was in this little log school house built in 1750 that Jacob (3) went to school. How much schooling he received, we do not know, but we do know that the influence of the church was there and that the school trustees were among the distinguished men of that day.

Land was granted to his father, Frederick (2), in Huntingdon County, Pa. in 1794 (no doubt for Revolutionary War service). Huntingdon County was organized in 1787 and joins Mifflin County which was organized in 1789. There was a western movement of Hessers and Dolls and the fact of cheap land, offered an inducement for settlement in this area. The fact that Casper Doll, formerly of Montgomery County, a nephew of Catharine Doll-Hesser, settled in McVeytown (Mifflin County) helps to show the gathering together of these families in Mifflin County. Jacob (3) was twenty-one when his father received the land grant in 1794 and he may have married at that time and gone with his father to Huntingdon County. Jacob (3) is on the tax lists of Wayne Township, Mifflin County, from 1802 to 1823. He is not taxed for real estate, but for live stock (horses and cows) having as many as three horses and four cows at one time (tax list of 1819). It would seem for those years (1802-1823) that he was a farmer and probably rented land.

Jacob (3) is on the assessment roll in the borough of Newton Hamilton, Mifflin County, Pa., in 1836 and he is listed at that time



as a carpenter.<sup>1</sup> Jacob (3) as a young man may have gone to Germantown for awhile as it was the center for German culture, education, religion and entertainment and too, practically all of his relatives were living there and his Uncle John (2) was operating the popular Buck Tavern. While there he may have married some one from the Philadelphia area—there is a tradition that his son (John (4) ) was born in Germantown in 1795, and possibly his son George (4) also may have been born there.

Since all of Jacob's (3) uncles, as well as his father, had served in the Revolutionary War, along with his brothers (John 3, Frederick 3, Abraham 3) there was bound to be confusion and dislocation of families in the reconstruction period which followed. With the ending of the great war in which this Hesser family had participated so valiantly in fighting for the rights of freemen, this, coupled with the disappearance of the St. Augustus Church records at La Trappe, Montgomery County, Pa., which contained the births, marriages, and death records from 1777 to 1812, where Jacob's (3) father lived (Frederick 2) has made it very difficult to secure documentary proof for all of the family. With the events of that American historical era changing so rapidly it would seem reasonable that family records could easily be left unwritten, lost, or forgotten, in the period following the war, thus causing your family historian of today a considerable amount of trouble in trying to piece all of the family ties together.

The sons of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1), (John 2, Leonard 2, George Nicholas 2) who stayed on in Germantown were able to keep the family records fairly well intact, while Frederick (2), who was of a more pioneering nature, and moved westward with his family, did not preserve the family records; consequently this branch of the family has been much harder to follow and locate.

We, who experience the many comforts and privileges of today, find it hard to realize all of the hardships and privations endured by our sturdy ancestors who braved not only the military might of England, but traveled through the forests, over barely broken trails, up and down along the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers to the new country where they built their log cabins and worked and reared

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<sup>1</sup>History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Vol. I, Ellis, P. 588.

their families. There were no railroads in this section of Pennsylvania when Jacob (3) was living in Mifflin County—the village of Newton Hamilton was just starting to grow.

I am reminded in this connection of a few lines from a speech made by Daniel Webster, at Saratoga, New York, during the campaign of President Harrison for president in 1840; “Gentlemen, it did not happen to me to be born in a log cabin; but my elder brother and sisters were born in a log cabin, raised amid the snow drifts of New Hampshire at a period so early that when the smoke first rose from its rude chimney and curled over the frozen hills there was no similar evidence of a white man’s habitation between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada. Its remains still exist. I make to it an annual visit. I carry my children to it, to teach them the hardships endured by the generations which have gone before them—And if ever I am ashamed of it, or if ever I fail in affectionate veneration for him who raised it, and defended it against savage violence and destruction, cherished all the domestic virtues beneath its roof, and, through the fire and blood of seven years’ revolutionary war, shrank from no danger, no toil, no sacrifice, to serve his country, and to raise his children to a condition better than his own, may my name and the name of my posterity be blotted forever from the memory of mankind.”

Jacob Hesser (3) was first listed on the Wayne township tax lists in Mifflin County, Pa., in 1802—the year that Newton Hamilton was laid out as a town. Jacob (3) was a carpenter, and he helped to build the little log cabin village that was starting to grow.

All of the early houses were made of logs and there were no churches or stores for Jacob (3) to attend in that early day. The Newton Hamilton Methodist Church was organized in 1825 and the Presbyterian church in 1838. It was in 1835 that schools were established in Mifflin County. With this historical background we can realize, in a way, the primitiveness of the life of Jacob (3) and his growing family.

A list of the United States census schedules are on file at the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce Building, Washington, D. C., and there will be found the Pennsylvania census records for the years 1800, 1810 and 1820. The 1800 census was the second census taken in the United States (The one in 1790 was the first).



Your author had a search made of these early census records for Mifflin County, Pa., and they reveal the following:

Second Census 1800, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania  
Allotted to Sam Edmoston (census taker)

Place	Name of Heads	Males					Females				
		to 10 years	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 up	to 10 years	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 up all others
Wayne Twp.	Hesser, Jacob	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

Census 1810, Mifflin County,  
Schedules allotted to Arthur McNaught (census taker)

Wayne Twp.	Hesser, Jacob	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—
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Census 1820, Mifflin County,  
Schedules allotted to Benjamin Patton (census taker)

Place	Name of Heads	Males					Females				
		to 10 yrs.	10 to 16	16 to 18	16 to 26	26 to 45	to 10 yrs.	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 up
Wayne Twp.	Jacob Hesser	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	1
Wayne Twp.	John Hesser	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—

Interpreting the above census reports for these three years shows that Jacob Hesser (3) was in Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa., as head of a family in 1800 with two sons under ten (probably George (4) and John (4) ) and his wife: in 1810 he was in Wayne township with three sons (one under 10 and two from 10 to 16 years old) and two daughters under ten, along with his wife; in 1820 he was in Wayne township with four sons (including John), four daughters, his wife, and two farmers who were probably working for him as he had considerable livestock at that time. The 1820 census also shows for the first time, his son, John Hesser (4) in Wayne township, as head of a family with one son (George Washington Hesser (5) under ten years, and his wife.

As there seems to be no family Bible for Jacob's (3) family and early church records in that area were not kept—it has, to date, been impossible to secure the names of all of Jacob's (3) children.

*Issue:*

154 JOHN (4), b. Feb. 14, 1795; d. Dec. 15, 1882; m. (1) Elizabeth Setzler, (2) Sarah Ross; res. McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pa.

155. GEORGE (4), b. 1799 or 1800; d. July 4, 1852; m. Isabella Langton of Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa.; res. Mifflin County, Pa., and Mansfield, Ohio.

Two more sons and four daughters whose names are not available. This information according to the U. S. Census records for 1800, 1810, and 1820.

*References:*

St. Augustus Lutheran Church Records, La Trappe, Montgomery County, Pa., page 330.

Tax lists, Wayne township, Mifflin County Court House basement, Lewistown, Pa.

History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys of Pa., Vol. I, Ellis, pp. 588-616.

U. S. census records for 1800, 1810, 1820.

Booklet "The Shrine of Lutheranism," Wm. D. Fegley, D.D. published by St. Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, Pa.

154. JOHN HESSER (4), b. Feb. 14, 1795; d. Dec. 15, 1882; m. (1) Elizabeth Setzler, b. Feb. 17, 1795; d. March 13, 1834 and (2) Sarah Ross, b. Oct. 15, 1799; d. Oct. 15, 1875; there were seven children born to Elizabeth Setzler-Hesser and three children to Sarah Ross-Hesser. Grandfather Ross was born in Newton Hamilton, Pa., 1773 and died in Punxsutawney, Pa., in 1813; Elizabeth McKinstry-Ross (his wife) was born 1776, d. 1864.

There is a record of John (4) being assessed in 1836 for 14 acres in Oliver township, Mifflin County, Pa.: a granddaughter states that she thinks his occupation was a carpenter. John (4) was on the tax lists of Wayne township, Mifflin County, beginning in 1823 for one cow and one horse—as he was twenty-eight at that time, he evidently was living elsewhere before this date: he probably was married in 1819 as his first child was born Dec. 21, 1819. It would seem that his father was Jacob (3), and there is a tradition that John (4) was born in Germantown. Jacob (3) may have lived for awhile in



Germantown or in that area before going to Mifflin County; so, John (4) may have been there until he arrived in Mifflin County.

John (4) and his wife were members of the Methodist Church in McVeytown, Pa. where they lived practically all of their lives. John (4) is buried in the McVeytown, Pa., cemetery.

John (4) appears on the Mifflin County 1820 census for the first time as head of a family with his wife and one son under ten.

In searching the Mifflin County courthouse records for information regarding the Hesser family, the following was disclosed:

*“Orphans Court Docket No. 7, page 277, January 6th, 1840. And now to wit—the petition of George, Lewis and Jacob Hesser, sons of John Hesser late of the township of Oliver in said County deceased, was presented and read in Court stating that they were minors above the age of fourteen years and hath no guardian to take charge of their persons and estates. And praying the Court to permit them to make choice of a guardian for the purpose aforesaid. Whereupon after due consideration the Court appointed James McDonald, Esqur. guardian for said minors he giving bond and bail in one hundred dollars each. By the Court*

*“And now to wit—the petition of John Hesser of the township of Oliver was presented and read in court stating that the petitioner has six children three of whom to wit John, Frederick, and James Hesser are minors under the age of fourteen years, and have no guardian to take charge of their persons and estates and praying the Court to appoint some proper person as guardian of said minors.*

*James McDonald Esquire appointed”*

The following was disclosed from the Mifflin County Court records for the year 1841:

*“Orphans Court Docket No. 7, page 375*

*“In Orphans Court on the second day of August, A.D. 1841, was heard the petition of John Hesser, husband of Elizabeth Hesser, deceased, who stated the petition left issue, six children of whom Frederick Hesser and James Hesser are minors under the age of fourteen years. James Cooper is appointed by the Court to be their guardian giving a bond in the sum of \$200 for each minor. (One of the six names is missing)*

*“At the same Court was heard likewise the petition of Lewis Hesser, Jacob Hesser and John Hesser, sons of Eliza-*

beth Hesser, late of Oliver township, minors above the age of fourteen years. James Cooper is appointed their guardian with bond fixed at \$600."

The above information from the Orphans Court states that guardians were appointed for the six children of John (4) after the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Setzler-Hesser.

*Issue:* all born in McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pa.

Children of Elizabeth:

156. GEORGE WASHINGTON (5), b. Dec. 21, 1819; d. Nov. 15, 1882; m. Julia A. ———

157. LEWIS (5), b. Sept. 9, 1821; d. Jan. 30, 1904

158. JACOB (5), b. Oct. 10, 1823; d. Oct. 17, 1879

159. JOHN, JR. (5), b. Aug. 29, 1826; d. May 2, 1897

160. SARAH (5), b. Jan. 23, 1830; d. ———

161. FREDERICK (5), b. July 25, 1832; d. April 25, 1912

162. JAMES (5), b. March 13, 1834; d. Sept. 16, 1882

Children of Sarah:

163. DAVID (5), b. July 2, 1836; d. May 17, 1884

164. ALEXANDER ROSS (5), b. Jan. 3, 1838; d. July 25, 1912

165. LYDIA (5), b. Jan. 18, 1840; d. Aug., 1918

#### References:

The above dates for family are from the John Hesser (4) family Bible.

U. S. census of 1820 and 1850, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

History, Juniata and Susquehanna Valleys of Pa. by Ellis, P. 592.

Tax lists, Wayne township, Mifflin County Courthouse basement, Lewistown, Pa.

156. GEORGE WASHINGTON HESSER (5), a Mexican War veteran, b. Dec. 21, 1819 in McVeytown, Pa.; m. Julia A. ———; d. Nov. 15, 1882, buried in McVeytown Cemetery; res. McVeytown, Pa., Mifflin County.

George (5) was prominent in his community—he was Burgess (1877 and 1878). He joined an army company recruited from that section of the country and served in the Mexican War:

<sup>1</sup>"Actual hostilities between the Republic of Mexico and the United States commenced in May, 1846. The first battles of this war were fought on the 8th and 9th of that month and are known in history as the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. These battles and victories of our army commanded by General Zachary

<sup>1</sup>History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, by Ellis, Vol. I, Page 132.



Taylor created an extraordinary excitement and a patriotic fervor throughout the country. Volunteer organizations all over the country were offering their services to the Government. Two regiments known as the 1st and 2nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiments were organized, commanded by Colonels Wynkoop and Roberts and were sent to the seat of war leaving scores of companies at home that had volunteered to go, and among these were the Washington Guards of McVeytown, the Lewistown Guards and Lewistown Artillerists, all of Mifflin County. As these regiments passed through the county by canal-boat, on their way to Mexico, quite a number of individuals joined them from the towns and villages in the country. J. H. Ross, William Stackpole, George Washington Hesser, L. Bymaster, Jacob Hoseymantle from McVeytown joined themselves to the 1st regiment and served to the end of the war."

From the Blue Book of Schuylkill County, page 119, is the following: "Mexican War. Muster Roll of Company B, 1st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, War with Mexico, Dec. 5, 1846, George Washington Hesser, private, age 27 years, McVeytown, Pa., served to the end of the war."

Among the pension records in the National Archives in Washington, D. C. is a file relating to the claim based upon the Mexican War service of George W. Hesser by his widow, Julia A. Hesser. The widow was granted a pension from January 29, 1887. Julia was born about 1827.

The U. S. 1850 census gives George's (5) occupation as, boatman.

*Issue:*

166. WILLIAM W. (6), b. 1850; d. —, had a son, George

167. ANNIE C.

168. SADIE (probably Sarah)

*References:*

The U. S. census of 1850: National Archives in Washington, D. C.

157. LEWIS HESSER (5), b. Sept. 9, 1821; d. Jan. 30, 1904; res. McVeytown, Pa. (Bratton Township); occupation, farmer, he owned a farm of 250 acres.

*Issue:*

169. ELIZABETH (6); WILLIAM (6); never married; JACOB (6) never married.

170. NELSON (6) never married

171. FREDERICK (6), ———

172. JOHN (6), b. 1854, d. 1926; res. Bratton Township, Mifflin County, Pa.

*Issue:*

173. CHARLES (7), b. June 29, 1894, res. Mattawana, Pa.

158. JACOB HESSER (5), b. Oct. 10, 1823; d. Oct. 17, 1879; res. Wilmington, Delaware.

*Issue:*

173. CLARA (6); 174. SALLIE (6); 175. EDWARD B. (6) died in his junior year at West Point Military Academy.

172. JOHN HESSER, JR. (5), b. Aug. 29, 1826; d. May 2, 1897; res. Easton, Maryland, Talbot County.

*Issue:*

176. IRVIN (6)

161. FREDERICK HESSER (5), b. July 25, 1832; d. April 25, 1912; res. Altoona, Pa.; no issue.

162. JAMES R. HESSER (5), b. March 14, 1834; m. Oct. 16, 1866; d. Sept. 16, 1882; m. Delilah Fike, b. Dec. 31, 1838; d. Mar. 11, 1924; occupation—employed by the Railroad Company; res. McVeytown, Pa. James and his wife were members of the Methodist Church.

*Issue:*

177. FRANK S. (6), b. July 20, 1868; d. Feb. 1941.

178. EFFIE (6), b. 1870; m. Thomas Zimmerman; res. Altoona, Pa.

179. WILLIAM E. (6), b. May 7, 1872; res. McVeytown.

180. MARY E. (6), b. Sept 27, 1874; res. Harrisburg, Pa.

181. JAMES HOWARD (6), b. May 6, 1877; d. Dec. 1889.

182. HARRIET (6), b. Sept. 4, 1879; m. John O. Wirt; res. McVeytown, Pa.

183. FRANK S. HESSER (6), b. July 20, 1868; d. Feb. 1941; res. Harrisburg, Pa.

*Issue:*

184. WILLIAM, JR.; no issue.

185. RALPH S.

*Issue:*

186. ELIZABETH JANE.

163. DAVID HESSER (5), b. July 2, 1836; d. May 17, 1884; res. McVeytown, Pa.

*Issue:*

187. WILLIAM (6), 188. MARY (6), 189. EDWARD (6), 190. MARGARET (6), 191. EMERY (6), 192. HARRIET (6), 193. EDITH (6), 194. ANN (6), 195. CLYDE (6).



164. ALEXANDER ROSS HESSER (5), b. Jan. 3, 1838; d. July 25, 1912; m. Mary Pincin; res. Altoona, Pa.

*Issue:*

196. EMMA (6), 197. HARRY (6), 198. CHARLES (6), 199. WOODS (6), born 1867; 200. CLARA (6), 201. JENNIE (6), 202. WARREN (6), 203. ROSS, JR. (6), 204. BRUCE (6)

165. LYDIA (5), b. Jan. 18, 1840; d. Aug. 1918; m. Mr. Keim; res. Ridgeway, Pa.; issue, Clyde, Bruce, Daisy, Edward, Mack.

155. GEORGE (4), pioneer, son of Jacob (3), b. in Germantown or Mifflin County, Pa., 1799 or 1800 (according to the 1850 U. S. Census): m. 1821, to Isabella Langton, daughter of Peter Langton who lived in Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa.: Isabella was born in Pa. July 26, 1798. George (4) died in Mansfield, Ohio (Richland County) July 4, 1852, aged 52 years; the records of the Mansfield Cemetery Association show that he died of smallpox and that he was buried as soon as a grave could be prepared. Many people died of the epidemic in this section of the country at that time. It was stated that he was buried at night in a plot of ground near the Mansfield Cemetery. They would not allow the victims of this disease to be buried in the regular cemetery. So today his exact grave is not known as no grave stone marks his last resting place. After the death of her husband in Mansfield, Ohio, Isabella Langton-Hesser went to Folsom, California with her daughter Mary Eliza Hesser (5) where she died Sunday, May 29, 1864, aged 65 years, 9 months and 29 days. Several of her sons (Jacob (5), Lafayette (5), George Washington (5)) and her daughter Isabella Hesser-Marvin, had gone before her to California at the time of the great "goldrush." To the union of George (4) and Isabella Langton-Hesser were born ten children.

Although much time has been spent in research, the writer has been able to secure very little data concerning the life of his great grandfather, George (4). This is largely for two reasons, 1—family records were not kept and 2—he moved often from place to place.

George (4) was on the tax list of Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa. for the first time in 1822 for one cow—then again in 1823 for one cow; his father (Jacob (3)) was first taxed in Wayne township in 1802 for three cows; the first son, Andrew McConnell Hesser (5), was born to George (4) and Isabella Langton-Hesser, Aug. 20, 1822 in Mifflin County—George (4) is not taxed in Mifflin County

after 1823, so he probably left Mifflin County with his young family and started on the long trip west to Ohio about 1824 or 1825 as his second son, Langton Peter Hesser (5), was born in Brookfield, Stark County, Ohio, July 24, 1825.

In the National Archives at Washington, D. C. are housed the census records of the United States. The first United States census was taken in 1790. In this census only the head of the family was named with the number of males and females in the family. There were no names of the children or the wife given. In the 1850 U. S. census report which the author has secured from Washington is the following information. It shows George Hesser in Mansfield, Ohio, (Richland County) with his wife, Isabella, and the names of the younger children who were living at home at that time. "Free inhabitants in the Dis. 127 Madison Township in the County of Richland, State of Ohio, enumerated by me, on the 11th day of September, 1850. (Signed E. G. Stokes.)"<sup>1</sup>

<i>Name of Every Person</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Profession or Trade</i>	<i>Value of Real Est. Owned</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Attended School</i>
George Hesser -----	50	M	Laborer	600	Penna.	
Isabella Hesser -----	53	F			Penna.	
Jacob Hesser -----	23	M	do		Ohio	
Martha Hesser -----	20	F			Ohio	
Washington Hesser--	14	M			Ohio	1
Lafayette Hesser ---	12	M			Ohio	1
Mary Hesser -----	10	F			Ohio	1
Gaylord Hesser ----	6	M			Ohio	

The above statement definitely proves several facts. We know that George and his wife Isabella Langton-Hesser were born in Pennsylvania and that George was born in 1799 or 1800 and that Isabella was born in 1798. It also gives the ages of the children at home from which it is possible to ascertain the year of their births. It also tells us that these children at home were born in Ohio and that three of them attended school. George lists himself as a laborer and has real estate valued at six hundred dollars.

<sup>1</sup>From the National Archives, Washington, D. C., 1850 Census Report.



From this census report it would seem that the four older children in the family (not listed in the census report) Andrew McConnell (5), Lydia (5), Langton Peter (5), and Isabella (5), had left home and were probably working and living in other places at that time.

In searching the Mifflin County, Lewistown, Pa., records for data of historical interest pertaining to the George Hesser (4) family, several items pertaining to the Langton family were uncovered.

1st The tax lists on record for Peter Langton (father of Isabella Langton-Hesser) in Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa., from 1811 to 1820: Peter Langton owned both real estate and live stock: also tax lists for James Langton (brother of Isabella Langton-Hesser and son of Peter Langton) from 1817 to 1830.

2nd The Administration account of James Langton, Administrator for Peter Langton's estate late of Wayne Township, deceased, Filed 10th April 1833 J. Beale, Regr. 9th of Augt., 1833.

3rd File No. 2610

Petition of George Hesser (4) in right of his wife, Isabella Langton, and for a citation to James Langton, Administrator of Peter Langton, dec.<sup>d</sup>, to settle his administration account. April 10, 1847, Petition read and citation awarded by the court. The petition reads as follows:

“To the Honorable the Judges of the Orphans Court of Mifflin County

The petition of George Hesser intermarried with Isabella Langton one of the heirs of Peter Langton late of Mifflin County dec.<sup>d</sup> by his attorney E. L. Benedict respectfully represents that letters of adm.<sup>r</sup> were issued to James Langton adm.<sup>r</sup> of the said Peter Langton dec.<sup>d</sup> on the 17th day 1832 and he has never settled his adm.<sup>r</sup> account of said estate ——— Your petitioner therefore prays the court to award a citation to be issued to the said James Langton adm.<sup>r</sup> as aforesaid to settle his adm.<sup>r</sup> account of said estate.  
April 10th 1847

George Hesser  
in right of his  
wife by  
E. L. Benedict, Att'y.

Margaret Hamilton before 1783 owned the farm (fifty or sixty acres) where the village of Newton Hamilton, Mifflin County, Pa., now stands. It was laid out by her as a town about 1802.<sup>1</sup> Jacob Hesser (3), father of George (4) was on the Wayne township tax lists for the first time in Newton Hamilton in 1802. Hester Hamilton, sister of Margaret Hamilton, was the wife of Colonel William Bratton, who served with distinction in the Revolutionary War. Bratton township in Mifflin County was named for this well-known family. His daughter, Elizabeth Bratton, married James Langton, brother of Isabella Langton-Hesser.

A few years later a considerable part of this land was owned by James and Richard Moffett. It is said that Richard Moffett later moved to Stark County, Ohio, and this is interesting because George Hesser (4), son of Jacob (3) when he left Mifflin County and journeyed westward with his wife, Isabella Langton-Hesser to Ohio, located for awhile in Stark County. The Moffet boys and George and Isabella were evidently friends.

There are a number of deeds on file in the Mifflin County Court House, Lewistown, Pa., showing the real estate bought and sold by Peter Langton (father of Isabella Langton-Hesser) On the 31st day of March, 1817, Margaret Hamilton, of Newton Hamilton, Wayne township, Mifflin County, sold to Peter Langton for \$480, 50 acres, 99 perches, by patent to her December 24, 1800, the land known as Newton Hamilton, where she lived.<sup>2</sup>

On April A.D. 1817, Peter Langton of Wayne township, sold to Richard and James Moffett of New York City for \$1600 the same land he had previously purchased from Margaret Hamilton on the left side of the Juniata River for \$480.00.<sup>3</sup> This indeed showed a good profit for Peter Langton.

Another deed to Peter Langton from Joseph Coulter in the year 1806 and proven June 19th, A.D. 1806, both of Wayne township, Mifflin County, Pa. for 200 pounds, property on which Peter Langton now lives, south side of Juniata River, 25 acres, 12 perches, first warranted by Proprietaries to Samuel Brown in 1755.

In the administration account of Peter Langton (filed at his death by his son, James Langton, Administrator, April 10, 1833)

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<sup>2</sup>Deed Book, N. Vol. I, P. 7, 1817, Mifflin County Court House, Lewistown, Pa.

<sup>1</sup>History of Juniata and Susquehanna Valleys in Penna. Ellis, P. 583.

<sup>3</sup>Deed Book, N. Vol. I, P. 8, 1817, Mifflin County Court House, Lewistown, Pa.



which lists his assets as well as outstanding accounts are included names of a number of prominent citizens in Wayne township: such men as Dr. Abraham Rothrock, the leading physician; Nathaniel Wilson, Presbyterian church elder, cabinet maker and a director of the academy; Richard Miles, postmaster in McVeytown, burgess and member of the town council; Christopher Moist, justice of the peace, Bratton township; Andrew Bratton (a brother of Elizabeth Bratton, who was the wife of James Langton, administrator); John Dougherty, McVeytown, a prominent early family; William Swanzey, Esq.<sup>r</sup> and Jacob Briner. Peter Langton's assets were largely outstanding notes from these men in the village. It would seem that he also was a dealer in real estate as the above information discloses.

Peter Langton evidently was living with his son, James Langton, in Wayne township at the time of his death and was buried in the McVeytown, Pa., cemetery. The 1820 census report seems to verify this as we find James listed with one male and two females under ten (his three children), he and his wife, one male over 45, and one laborer.

The children of Peter Langton, were Isabella (who married George Hesser (4) ), James (who married Elizabeth Bratton), and possibly Joseph Langton (Joseph Landgon, in the 1850 census for Mifflin County) who married Catharine. According to the 1850 census report, Joseph Langton had real estate valued at \$4000.00 in Granville township, Mifflin County, Pa., ten children and one German laborer. The children were Mary A., James, Martha E., Isabella, John, William H., Hannah C., Michael M., Eliza J., and Joseph J.

Joseph Langton (son of Peter) was born in 1803 and his wife Catharine in 1807. His name as well as his brother's, James, are mentioned several times in the History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys (Ellis). The court asked for a division of Wayne township in 1834 and a committee reported on the division in 1835 suggesting that a line be drawn through Joseph Langton's lane to Jacks Mountain. This formed a new township called Oliver,<sup>1</sup> named in honor of Judge John Oliver.

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<sup>1</sup>History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys (Ellis) P. 592.

In the assessment list of 1836 for Oliver township, Mifflin County, which also includes the borough of McVeytown, Joseph I. Langton is listed for 250 acres and James Langton with 100 acres.

There appears also the will of one Andrew Langton (book 4, page 15) of McVeytown, Mifflin County, who left everything to his sister, Martha B. Walters. She was the wife of Casper Walters.

George Hesser (4) lived in the days when pioneers were moving westward from Pennsylvania into Ohio. He was a teamster and owned and drove a big six-horse stage and freight wagon from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Mansfield, Ohio. It was about 1832 that a line of stages was established from Pittsburgh through New Lisbon, Canton, Brookfield, Wooster, to Mansfield. George (4) and his wife, Isabella, evidently lived for awhile in Brookfield (Stark County, Ohio) for we find that their son, Langton Peter (5), was born there July 24, 1825. The writer owns an old leather bound volume entitled "A Universal History of the United States" published in 1830. It formerly belonged to his grandfather, Langton Peter Hesser (5). In the back of the book is written in "long-hand" the following, "George Hesser, His Book, bought April the seventh, 1832, Brookfield, Stark County, Ohio." There is also written in the same hand in the last page in the book, "George Hesser, his hand and pen and all is well, Hayesville, April the 10th, 1837, Vermillion Township, Ashland, County, Ohio."

With the pioneering spirit in his veins, George (4) came from Pennsylvania into Ohio bringing his young family with him. The book referred to above shows that he was living in Brookfield, Stark County, Ohio, and also at Hayesville, which is near Mansfield, Ohio (Richland County). Along with his work as a stage and freight driver he evidently worked as a teamster and roadbuilder. In the History of Crawford County by Hopley we find him listed for personal tax in 1830 in Bucyrus Township, Crawford County. He was also elected a road supervisor for this county in 1833. Crawford County joins Richland County to the west. We know, too, that they lived in Wood County (Ohio) for a short period only. They evidently came back to Mansfield for that is where he died on July 4, 1852.

Langton Peter (5) told his children that when his father, George (4), lay sick with the smallpox he was fearful of taking the dread disease. He said the entire family would go into the bedroom of his



father to inquire as to his condition except himself. He would peep through the door and speak to his father, but would not go into his room. He was the only one in the family who contracted the disease from his father. Langton Peter (5) survived but his father died.

George (4) as a teamster, a road builder, and a laborer, occupied an important post in the construction of the road highway to the West. As a stage and freight driver and a builder of roads he contributed his part in overland freight transportation which preceeded the great Pennsylvania Railroad which came later through that territory. From the History of Richland County (Ohio) compiled by A. A. Graham in 1880, I quote the following: "Great covered freight wagons, with tires seven or eight inches broad and an inch thick, drawn by six horses or mules, made regular trips. Many of those teamsters were men of high character, standing and credit, and, in transacting their business, would require persons who shipped goods by their wagons to make out three bills of lading, all properly signed, with as much regularity as a ship at sea or the freight trains of today. One of these teams would today be a greater curiosity than a steamer or a train of cars." The history also states "that the old main line of stages was from Philadelphia through Lancaster, Harrisburgh, Carlisle, Bedford to Pittsburgh. Six horse wagons brought freight from Pittsburgh to Mansfield. John T. Creigh and Jerry Jaques each ran a regular line of big wagons of six horses between Mansfield and Pittsburgh and supplied all the towns en route. People paid five dollars to six dollars per hundred pounds. The wagons brought out iron, steel, glass, nails, etc., and took back ginseng, cransberries, etc."

*Issue:*

205. ANDREW McCONNELL (5), b. Aug. 20, 1822, Lewistown, Pa., Mifflin County; m. (1) Sarah Faulkner 1861, (2) Fannie Faulkner; d. Aug. 28, 1896; bur. Shelby Cemetery, Shelby, Ohio.

206. LYDIA (5), no record of birth or death, tradition is that she died in Bucyrus, Ohio. She may have been the oldest child; an interesting story was told the writer by his Aunt Minerva regarding Lydia's bravery as a young girl. I quote the story—"When Aunt Lydia was a young girl and Indians were still around, she strayed away from home and was caught by them. They took her a long way off and at night one Indian slept on either side of her. One night when all

were asleep she managed to escape. As she traveled, she set up the grass behind her to conceal her trail. Becoming very hungry, she killed a squirrel with a stone and ate the raw meat. She finally found the trail home. This was quite an adventure for a young girl, and she was very much of a heroine in the home for some time."

207. LANGTON PETER (5), b. July 24, 1825, Brookfield, Stark County, Ohio; m. Rachel Sherwood Grant, Aug. 18, 1851; d. Sept. 14, 1910; bur. Crestline, Ohio, cemetery.
208. JACOB (5), b. in Ohio 1827; no record of marriage or death; listed as a laborer in the 1850 census; tradition is that he went West to California.
209. ISABELLA (5), b. Mansfield, Ohio, 1831; m. (1) Isaac W. Marvin, (2) E.-B. Howard, at Sacramento, Calif. Apr. 12th by Rev. E. K. Miller. (3) Mr. Farmer; d. 1897 in Folsom, California.
210. GEORGE WASHINGTON (5), b. Mansfield, Ohio, 1836; never married; d. Ourey, Colorado. He went west and worked in the Silver mines in Colorado and Montana. The Hesser River was named for him in Montana.
211. LAFAYETTE (5), b. Mansfield, Ohio, 1838; tradition is that he went west to California—no further information.
212. MARTHA (5), b. Nov. 11, 1839, Mansfield, Ohio; m. James Black; d. Dec. 28, 1890 at Milan, Ohio.
213. MARY ELIZA (5), (probably Elizabeth) b. 1840, Mansfield, Ohio; m. Elisha C. Bradbury Dec. 11th in Folsom, Calif. by Rev. J. E. Benton; d. Folsom, California, 1869 or 1873; no further information.
214. GAYLORD (5), b. 1844, Mansfield, Ohio; died very young.

#### References :

Tax lists, Deed books, Wayne Township, Mifflin County, Court-house basement, Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

National Archives, Washington, D. C. (1850) Census.

History of Crawford County, Ohio, Hopley.

History of Richland County, Ohio, A. A. Graham.

Mansfield Cemetery Association, Mansfield, Ohio.

Recorder of deeds and wills, Court House, Mansfield, Ohio.

History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Pa., Vol. I, Ellis.

205. ANDREW McCONNELL (5), son of George (4) and Isabella Langton-Hesser, b. in Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pa., August 22, 1822; d. Greensprings, Ohio, August 28, 1896; bur. Shelby (Ohio) cemetery; m. (1) Sarah Faulkner 1861, (2) Frances Faulkner.

Andrew McConnell (5) like some of his brothers and sisters went west during the "Gold Rush" days. In a letter from his daughter,



Alice (6), she states that he lived in California in 1861 and that she has two silver cups with the inscription, "Awarded by the California State Agricultural Society to Andrew McConnell Hesser for "Comet" and "Badger" 1861." She states that he was always a lover of fine horses. He also owned a Ranch in Montana and his first wife (Sarah Faulkner-Hesser) died there in 1869. She was brought back from Montana and buried in Shelby, Ohio. To this Union were born two children, Alice Sarah and Mary Elizabeth. Later, Andrew McConnell (5) married a second time, Frances Faulkner, a sister of his first wife. There were no children to this union.

After the death of Andrew's (5) first wife, he moved back to Ohio and located in Greensprings, Ohio. For awhile, he was in the grocery business and later was postmaster under Grover Cleveland's administration. He later went into the drug business. He was a successful business man and highly honored and respected in his community.

*Issue:*

215. ALICE SARAH (6), b. April 7, 1868; res. Barberton, Ohio; m. (1) Dr. Paul Lauer, educator—(2) Uriah L. Light, educator; to the union of Mr. U. L. Light, who for many years was a successful Superintendent of Schools, Barberton, Ohio, are sons Rexford Hesser Light 1903-1910; Robert Light, b. 1905; Donald Andrew Light, b. 1907.

216. MARY ELIZABETH (6), b. May 29, 1869; m. Mr. Way; res. Livingston, Montana.

209. ISABELLA HESSER (5), daughter of George (4) and Isabella, born Mansfield, Ohio, 1831; d. Folsom, California, in 1897; m. Isaac W. Marvin in Norwalk, Ohio. They then moved to Shelby, Ohio, where they lived for awhile. In 1862, Mr. Marvin went to Folsom, California, and a year later, his wife and children joined him in Folsom, going by the way of Panama. Four children were born to this union: George Isaac, Alice, Carrie, and Mary. Isaac W. Marvin, husband of Isabella, died at the age of thirty-eight, leaving his wife with the four young children. Isabella (5) married a second time to a Mr. E. B. Howard of Folsom, Cal., who owned a large western ranch. He died and left it to his wife. No children were born to this union. She married a third time to a Mr. Farmer and no children were born to this union.

According to a newspaper clipping received from her grandson, Frank E. Marvin (Folsom, California), which tells of Isabella's (5) death, states that she was very highly respected. "She was highly esteemed by all who knew her. Her age at the time of her death was sixty-two years and six months. The funeral services were held under the auspices of Fedora Rebekah Lodge of which she was a charter member. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. The funeral took place from the family residence on Friday afternoon at two o'clock and was largely attended by the friends of the deceased who came to pay their last respects to her worth and goodness."

Isabella's (5) son, George Isaac Marvin, in the early days worked in the printing business in Sacramento. With two other printers he brought out the first copy of the "State Capital Record," later the "Sacramento Record." He was also present when the driving of the last spike on the Central Pacific Railroad was celebrated at Promintory Point, uniting the east and the west. He was an outstanding citizen in Folsom, California.

*Issue:*

217. GEORGE ISAAC MARVIN, 1851-1920, his children were Frank E., Sr., born May 6, 1877 and May Belle-Ryan, 1882-1937. Frank E., Sr., has a son Frank E., Jr., born Oct. 27, 1919, res. Folsom, California.

218. ALICE MARVIN-FORD, 1855-1925, Adin, California.

219. CARRIE MARVIN, 1860-1905, never married.

220. MARY MARVIN, d. 1887; m. Mr. Farmer.

212. MARTHA HESSER (5), daughter of George (4) and Isabella Langton-Hesser, born Mansfield, Ohio in 1839; d. Milan, Ohio, Dec. 28, 1890; m. James Black and their res. was Milan, Ohio.

*Issue:*

221. FRANK BELLE (6), born April 21, 1864; d. July 30, 1940; m. Dr. William J. Esch. Jan. 9, 1889; res. Cleveland, Ohio; to this union are WILLIAM J. ESCH, 2nd, b. Dec. 1, 1889; KATHARYN ESCH-WALKER, born July 8, 1891; JOSEPH ESCH; LEONA MARIE ESCH-RUSSELL, born March 29, 1893; MARGUERITE ESCH, b. Dec. 16, 1895; GERTRUDE FRANCES ESCH, b. Feb. 9, 1897; EDYTHE ELIZABETH ESCH, b. April 8, 1899; IRENE HELEN ESCH-WESTENHAVER, b. April 14, 1901; JOHN FRANCIS ESCH 1903-1942; ARTHUR ESCH, b. Jan. 5, 1906; DOROTHY ESCH-WILLIAMS, born April 3, 1907.



222. GEORGE BLACK (6), b. Aug. 20, 1865; res. Parma, Ohio; never married.

207. LANGTON PETER HESSER (5), was born in Brookfield, Stark County, Ohio, July 24th, 1825 and died in Crestline, Ohio, Crawford County, September 14th, 1910. He was the son of George Hesser (4) and Isabella Langton-Hesser and was one of ten children born to this union.

Langton Peter was married to Rachel Sherwood Grant in Mansfield, Ohio, August 18th, 1851 and lies buried by her side on the family lot in Greenlawn Cemetery, Crestline, Ohio. Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser died May 14th, 1915. They both died from natural causes that come with old age.

As I look back through the years I think of my grandfather as one of the kindest men I ever knew. A fine physical specimen of humanity, six feet tall, weighing over two hundred pounds, broad shoulders, a pleasant smile, a heavy beard, and an honest face back of it, were some of the characteristics that stand out in my memory. Never critical of humanity, he seemed to always have a good word for everyone. As a child he told us many interesting stories of his experiences with the Indians when he crossed the plains in 1849 in a covered wagon train. He went West in company with others at the time of the "Gold Rush," in fact he made two trips West and returned in a sailing ship around Cape Horn in South America.

I have a very interesting "homesick" letter which he wrote to his wife from Sacramento, California. He wished her to come out to California and be with him, but she would not make the trip, so he returned and entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Crestline, Ohio. Some years ago, when I began collecting genealogy material, I wrote my Aunt Minerva (Minerva McConnell Hesser-Castner, who was Langton's oldest child) asking if she would send me a brief history of her father. This she did and I am quoting her letter-history of him.

Crestline, Ohio  
At home, 1-8-1923

My Dear Ernest,

Truly I am most willing to give you any assistance possible in your self-imposed task of gathering facts concerning the history of the Hesser family. But I assure you I find it quite difficult to write

anything about my father. Had you begun your inquiries while he was still with us or even before Mother left us, you might have secured some very interesting data.

Incidentally I recall hearing him say that he was born and spent his childhood at Brookfield in Stark County, Ohio. When yet a small boy, they removed to Mansfield, which was his home until they moved to Crestline, in 1856. One of a family of ten children, he received a meager education in a country school. A sister, Eliza, younger than he, was graduated from the Mansfield (Ohio) Schools and taught there for several years.

After reaching mature years myself, and looking backward through childhood and on down to the time of his passing, I feel that my father was one of "nature's noblemen," a man of unobtrusive demeanor, of few words, conservative, yet able to make a place for himself in the hearts of his friends and win a measure of distinction in the community where he spent over fifty-five years. With his unfinished education, he really received his equipment for life in the "university of hard knocks."

In 1849 he was attacked with what has since been called "*the gold fever*," and in company with several young men and several with families, made a trip to California in covered wagons, and with a train of horses. Horses at that time were very valuable in California. When he returned he came in a sailing vessel.

When we were children he told us some very interesting stories of his adventures on the overland trip.

In 1851 he was married to Rachel Sherwood Grant. To this union was born six children, two of whom preceded him to our heavenly home.

When the Civil War broke out, it was the popular opinion that it could last but ninety days, and a number of his friends had arranged for a commission as Captain for him and were forming a company. However, before the preliminaries were completed, his mother (Isabella Langton-Hesser) came out from Mansfield and insisted that he remain at home and take care of his family of four small children, assuring him that ninety day would not end the war. And after arguing as only a mother can, she prevailed, and he stayed at home. Of course I do not remember any of this, but have heard my mother tell it all over.

He was a staunch democrat, but was liberal in his decisions as to the qualifications for a candidate. I remember hearing him say that he voted for Abe Lincoln, and he was a great admirer of Theodore Roosevelt. And in a talk I had with Judge Babst, a year or two ago, about my father, he said, "In municipal affairs where they were particularly desirous of winning out, they could depend on L. P. Hesser for the vote of the entire Pennsylvania Railroad Shops."



His influence was great, the prominent and substantial men of the town were his most intimate friends. I know that he was held in the highest esteem by the railroad men. On the occasion of his 70th birthday about 25 of them surprised him—gave him a party—presenting him with a gold-headed cane. (We daughters being “in” the secret, provided the refreshments.) On another occasion they presented him with a revolver.

He served on the School Board for twelve consecutive years and on the City Council for as many. He was chairman of the building committee when the West Side school building was built, and by his faithful service was able to save the town hundreds of dollars by spending a great deal of time conferring with the contractor.

He was loyal and untiring in his service in any capacity where the best interests of our town were eminent. He was a faithful and generous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the home he was a most kindly and affectionate father, considerate, tolerant, always overlooking our failures and seldom reproving us.

Consequently, we children, paid strict heed to any reproof for he always assured us that he was depending upon our good behavior *next time*.

The last three years of his life he sat in darkness—was blind—but was always cheerful, ready with a joke, or some witty rejoinder. Never seeing the discouraging side of a situation, he really was an optimist.

I never can forget some of the things he said in his prayers at the “family altar”—which we had in the evening—he always “thanked God for the Children Thou has given us” and invariably ended with the petition “And give us a peaceful hour in which to die,” and that prayer was granted to him, for at the last he slept away. Truly it may be said of him

“Life’s work well done,  
Life’s race well run,  
Life’s crown well won,  
Now comes rest.”

Sincerely,

Aunt Nerva

(Minerva McConnell Hesser-Castner)

The following is taken from the History of Crawford County, Ohio, page 857:

“L. P. Hesser, blacksmith, Crestline, was born in Brookfield, Stark County, Ohio, in 1825. Went to Wood County in 1832, and removed to Mansfield in 1834, remaining there until 1856, when he came to Crestline, and has since made it his home, with the exception

of two trips to California. He is the oldest blacksmith in the Penna. R. R. Shop in Crestline. He was married in 1851 to Rachel Sherwood Grant. Her father was the first tanner in Mansfield and a distant relative of President U. S. Grant. They have six children—Minerva M., Lura Isabelle, Mary Jane, George G., Rosella, Elizabeth Roberta. Mr. Hesser is a democrat and has occupied several township and corporation offices, among which we may mention as a member of the School Board for 14 years; also on a committee for school buildings and improvements and it was owing to his active part taken by this committee that the Union School with its beautiful park was secured. Mr. Hesser was also a member of the Common Council for four years.”

The following is taken from the History of Richland County, page 643, Ohio, compiled by A. A. Graham.

“In educational matters, the town (Crestline) has not been neglected. Before the arrival of the railroads, a district log school-house stood about one and a half miles northwest of the present site of the town, on the Leesville Road. This had been sufficient for educational purposes for many years, and a school there as late as 1850.

“In 1853, when Crestline began to grow, a two-story frame school building was erected in the east part of the town, and shortly afterward, a similar one was erected in the west part. These two buildings served the purpose until 1868, when the present Union School building was erected. This building, which is an ornament and honor to the place, was designed by Mr. Thomas, and built by Miller, Smith and Frayer, Contractors. The Board of Education, under whose supervision it was erected, were Jacob Stahle, President, D. W. Snyder, John Berry, Langton Peter Hesser, C. Miller and N. Jones. The cost of the building and furniture, together with the two lots upon which it stands was \$30,000.”

The following is quoted from the History of Crawford County and Representative Citizens, compiled by John E. Hopley:

“The Board of Education under whose wise supervision the school and grounds were designed and laid out consisted of Jacob Stahley, president, D. W. Snyder, John Berry, L. P. Hesser, C. Miller and Nathan Jones—names worthy to be held in grateful remembrance by the citizens of Crestline.”

As stated, Langton Peter Hesser (5) married Rachel Sherwood Grant of Mansfield, Ohio (Richland County). Her forebears all came from New England. Her father was Edwin Grant who came as a young man from Fairfield, Connecticut, and her mother was Lury Bushnell, daughter of Sterling Bushnell who came from Hartford, Connecticut. Rachel Sherwood Grant's ancestry includes such



families as the Bushnells, Sherwoods, Buckinghams, Hulls, Waites, Holcombs, Sanfords, Dudleys, Grants—all early English colonists who took a real active part in the founding of New England. They represented the pioneering clergy, men of business affairs, the professions, education, and she was very proud of her distinguished ancestry and reflected this culture and religious background throughout her life.<sup>1</sup>

The following article is from the Crestline (Ohio) Advocate, the weekly home-town paper which tells of the Golden Wedding Anniversary (August 18, 1901) of Langton Peter Hesser (5) and his wife Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser. The writer discovered the article in an old-fashioned scrap-book which was kept by Rachel. The scrap-book according to the date on the fly-leaf was begun in 1881.

“Comparatively few people, in the journey of life, are permitted to walk side by side until fifty milestones are passed. This rare happiness however, has been granted to Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Hesser. On Sunday afternoon while they were sitting on their front porch, their children and grandchildren quietly entered the side door and took possession of the house, and calling them in, began offering congratulations. They were completely surprised. Social converse filled the time until the luncheon hour arrived; when the family of sixteen sat down together and partook of substantials and dainties, prepared by loving hands. A choice selection entitled, “The Eventide of Life” was read by the daughter-in-law and some original verses by one of the daughters, after which an envelope containing a remembrance in two of the most precious metals, was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Hesser.

“Their descendants were all present except Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Osborne, son and daughter, of Columbia, Ohio.

“The evening hours glided swiftly away filled with music, sacred songs, and reminiscences as related by Mr. and Mrs. Hesser. Finally after singing “The Sweet Bye and Bye” and “One More Day’s Work for Jesus,” Mr. Hesser expressed his appreciation of the happy gathering in a few fitting and feeling words of love, hoping that each one of his children might be permitted to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding also.

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<sup>1</sup>Rachel Sherwood-Grant-Hesser’s mother was Lury Bushnell, daughter of Sterling Bushnell, born Hartford, Connecticut, 1781 and came to Richland County, Vermillion township, Ohio, in 1821. Sterling was a direct descendant of Francis Bushnell born in England 1576 and was in Guilford, Conn. in 1639. Rachel’s father, Edwin Grant, born Fairfield, Conn., 1797 (son of Darius Grant, born 1765) was a member of the old Grant family. He was a tanner and came to Mansfield, Ohio in 1821 where he started the first tannery in the village. He was one of the founders of the Congregational church in Mansfield, Ohio. One of Rachel’s gr.-gr.-grandfathers was Thomas Buckingham, minister, Saybrook, Connecticut, who was one of the founders of Yale College. Many of her forebears served in the French and Indian Wars as well as in the Revolutionary War.

"Had this anniversary occurred upon any other day of the week than the Sabbath, many of their friends would have been invited to share in this happy gathering."

Langton Peter Hesser (5), and his devoted wife, Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser, were deeply religious. They were ardent workers in the church and attended the First Methodist Church in Crestline, Ohio, regularly throughout their lives. All of their children were reared under the influence of the church and every Sabbath morning went to Sunday School and then sat with their parents in the family pew for the Sunday morning service. This service was followed by a class prayer service which we attended as youngsters. Morning and evening prayers were observed each day in Langton Peter's (5) home. All of his children and most of his grandchildren were religious people for the church and religion in that day was an important part of their home life. The church was the social and religious center of the community. This devotion to the church was undoubtedly a carry-over from preceeding generations on both sides of the family.

Langton Peter Hesser (5) came to Crestline, Ohio in 1856, just four years after the village was laid out—the plot for the village was filed Dec. 21, 1852. The first train of cars from the east to come into Crestline over the new railroad (later known as the Pennsylvania Railroad) was April 11, 1853.

"The oldest church society in Crestline was formed by the Methodists in 1844, in what was then called Minnerly's schoolhouse, later known as McCulloch's. This, however, was several years before the laying out of the town. John Lovett was the principal mover in the enterprise. The church edifice, which is still standing on Thoman Street, was built in 1854. Those most active in the work were Mr. Minnerly, Francis Peppard, David Kerr, Francis Conwell, David Thrush, David White and Mr. Howland, who with their wives and a portion of their families, were among the first members. In connection with this church is a large and flourishing Sunday school."<sup>1</sup>

As soon as Langton and his wife and their two little daughters (Minerva and Isabelle) came to Crestline from Mansfield, Ohio, they immediately joined the Methodist Church as did the other children who were born later. So throughout their long useful lives they served the church of their choice with great devotion.

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<sup>1</sup>History of Crawford County, Ohio, and Representative Citizens by John E. Hopley, P. 260—Pub. 1912.



*Issue:*

223. MINERVA McCONNELL (6), born July 3, 1853, Crestline, Ohio; m. Alexander McClay Castner, July 3, 1873; d. Sept. 26, 1931; bur. Crestline, Ohio.
224. LURA ISABELLE (6), b. July 1, 1855, Galion, Ohio; m. A. H. Osborn; d. — 1944; res. Columbia Station, Ohio.
225. MARY JANE (6), b. Oct. 5, 1857; d. Aug. 22, 1858; b. Crestline, O.
226. GEORGE GAYLORD (6), b. June 20, 1859; m. Mary Ellen Garberich, June 22, 1881; res. Crestline, Ohio.
227. MARY ROSELLA (6), b. Jan. 22, 1862; d. Mar. 29, 1871; bur. Crestline, O.
228. ELIZABETH ROBERTA (6), b. May 27, 1868; m. William Burton Morton, June 15, 1898; d. May 10, 1935; bur. Crestline, O.

*References:*

History of Crawford County and Representative Citizens, Hopley  
 History of Richland County (Ohio), A. A. Graham  
 Crestline, Ohio, Advocate

223. MINERVA McCONNELL HESSER (6), daughter of Langton Peter Hesser (5) and Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser, b. July 3, 1852, Crestline, Ohio; m. Alexander McClay Castner of Woodburg, Pa., July 3, 1873; d. Sept. 26, 1931 and bur. in Crestline, Ohio cemetery.

Minerva McConnell Hesser-Castner was a woman of many talents. She received her education in the Crestline, Ohio public schools and later served for many years as a teacher in her own home town. From many sources I have learned that she was a very successful teacher and was greatly beloved by her pupils and their parents. She was a scholar and of a literary mind and was always active in club and community work. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was very active in all of the organizations formed for the furtherance of good.

A happy and united family grew up in the home which was beautified by her taste. She was a woman of remarkable character, and gifted with rare mental qualities which made her always an appreciative and interesting companion. Patriotic and loyal in an uncommon degree, she was interested in all public enterprises and gave her influence and help to every good work.



THE OLD FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, CRESTLINE, OHIO

Built in 1854, it served three generations of Hessers until it was torn down and the new M. E. Church was built in 1898. Here your author, his brother and sister and father and mother along with the Castner family and other members of the Langton Peter Hesser family sang in the church choir. Several members of the family acted as organist at various times.



A faithful mother, a true friend, she was greatly beloved by the community in which she so long had been an influence for good. "Her children rise up and call her blessed."

*Issue:*

ROBERTA LOUISE (7), b. Aug. 11, 1875; m. Dr. James H. Agnew, Sept. 1910; res. Fostoria, Ohio; no issue.

RALPH EUGENE (7), b. June 9, 1878; m. Addaline Cover, June 26, 1901; res. Bellevue, Ohio; issue: Robert Grant, Joseph Eugene, Richard Merle.

LURA MARGARET (7), b. Aug. 24, 1885; m. Joseph E. Stannah, June 5, 1906; res. Rochester, Pa.; issue: Capt. Joseph Edward Stannah and Major Robert Eugene Stannah.

GEORGE McCCLAY (7), b. June 17, 1887; m. Gertrude Shepard May 28, 1908; d. May, 1945; res. Jackson, Ohio. Issue: Frank McClay Castner.

224. LURA ISABELL HESSER (6), born July 1, 1855, Galion, Ohio, daughter of Langton Peter Hesser (5) and Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser; m. Mr. A. H. Osborne, Feb. 26, 1885 in Crestline, Ohio; d. 1944 at Columbia Station, Ohio.

Lura Isabell was a woman of remarkable sweetness of disposition and always considerate of others. "She opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue was the law of kindness." "She looked well to the ways of her household." To her husband, children, and grandchildren, she always gave her first concern. For many years she and her husband lived on a farm near Columbia Station, Ohio. After the death of her husband she lived with her son Roy and daughter Rachel.

*Issue:*

RACHEL MINERVA (7), b. March 24, 1886; m. Harry G. Martin in 1911; their children are Russel Hastings, Herbert Harry, Pauline Ethel, Robert Lee; res. Columbia Station, Ohio.

ERNEST ROY (7), b. Oct. 15, 1887; m. Jennie Stephens, 1911; no children; res. Columbia Station, Ohio.

226. GEORGE GAYLORD HESSER (6), born June 20, 1859, in Crestline, Ohio (Crawford County) was the fourth child of a family of six children born to the union of Langton Peter Hesser (5) and Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser. He was the only son born to this union. His sisters were Minerva McConnell, Lura Isabell, Mary

Jane, Mary Rosella and Elizabeth Roberta. He was named George Gaylord for two of his uncles, George Washington and Gaylord, brothers of his father.

Like most boys George was very active, full of life and started to school in Crestline at the age of six. He was a bright lad and made rapid progress in his studies. He showed special talent along artistic lines and at an early age began to draw pictures with pencil and colored crayons. There was no art course offered in the schools but his mother encouraged him in this work and furnished him with materials for "drawing" as it was called at that time. She gave him an old ledger which had belonged to her father who was a tanner in Mansfield, Ohio, (Edwin Grant) and he filled the blank pages of this book with his drawings. His mother kept and treasured this collection of drawings up until the time of her death. At present the book is in the possession of George Ernest Hesser (7). George (6) developed this natural talent and later in life entertained his children and friends with "chalktalks" on winter evenings.

In those days education was not so popular as at present and not many young men entered high school and college. When George (6) finished the eighth grade of school he decided that it was time for him to go to work. His father was a blacksmith in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops in Crestline and he succeeded in securing a position for George as a blacksmith's helper in the same shop. George (6) worked here for a while and then thought he would like to go "on the road" as a freight brakeman. He did this work for a while and then went back into the blacksmith shop. He, like his father, was strong, apt and active and in a few years was promoted to a full-time blacksmith. Running a "big fire" (or forge) was not an easy job. The making of "links and pins" was one of the hard jobs in that department of railroad work. The present automatic train coupler had not been invented and the link and pin was the only way to couple freight cars together. Naturally there was a great need for this equipment (links and pins) on account of the breakage on the road and the blacksmiths and their helpers were required not only to work all day (ten hours) but to go back after supper and work until ten o'clock at night. It was very hard work for a young man and later in life George (6) suffered from it.

George (6) was athletic and quick. He developed into a fine amateur baseball player and was captain of the local ball team and



the Crestline Hook and Ladder Fire Department Company. His Company, which went about the country, won a number of contests. When a young man he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church which he attended regularly with his parents and sisters. He had a fine baritone voice and was a member of the M. E. Church choir. It was here that he met Mary Ellen Garberich<sup>1</sup> an alto singer in the choir (and a school teacher) who later became his wife. (George's (6) sister, Elizabeth Roberta (6), was for many years the organist for this choir). Miss Garberich, whose home was on a farm west of Galion, Ohio was attending the high school in Crestline at the time of their meeting. They were married June 22, 1881, and to this union were born three children, George Ernest (7), Fred Garberich (7) and Nellie Sarah (7).

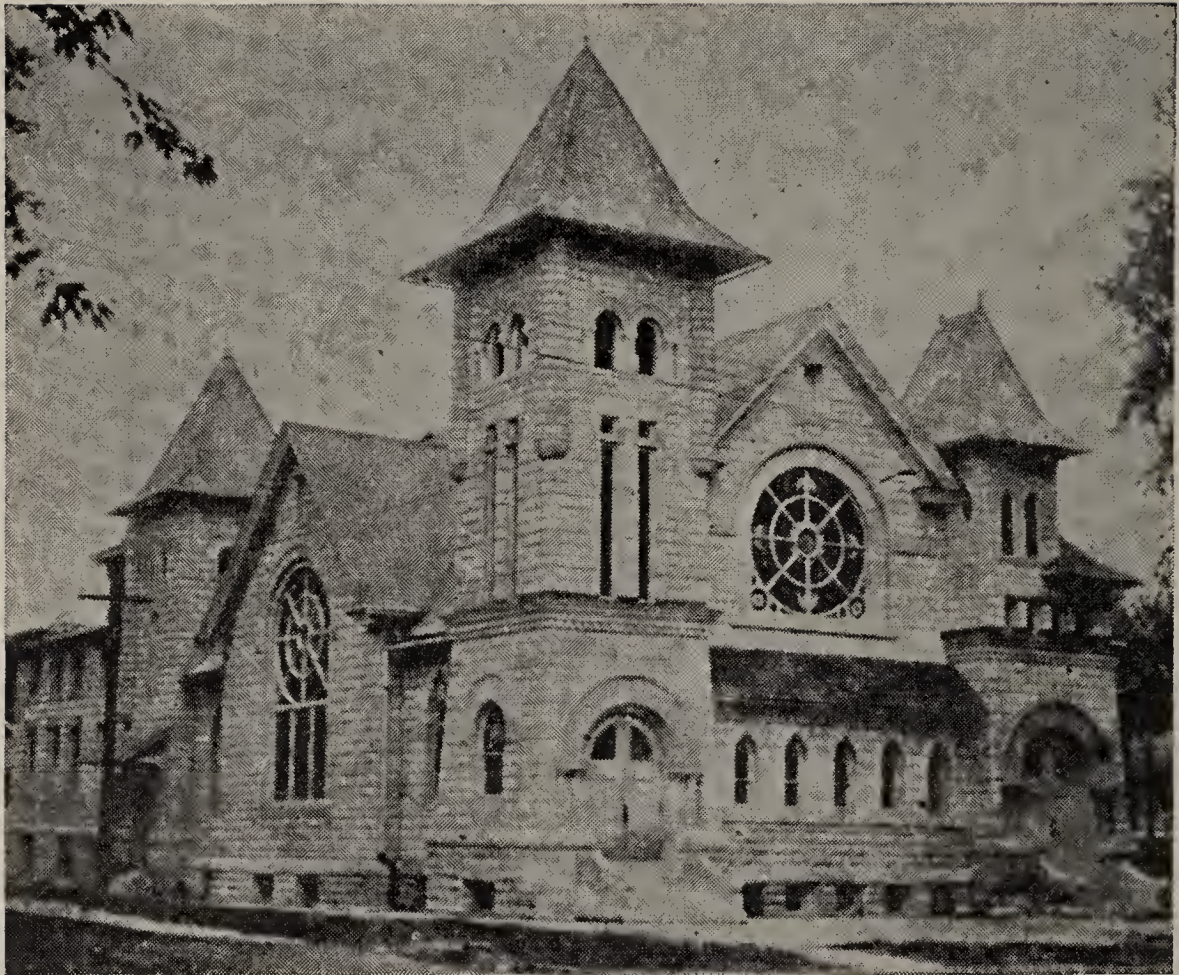
Through perseverance and hard work he forged forward from the position of head blacksmith to that of foreman of the blacksmith shop, which position he held for a number of years until he was forced to give it up on account of a nervous breakdown. He was always interested in civic affairs and like his father before him was for a number of years a member of the town council. Through his pleasing personality and interest in people he has a host of friends both young and old. For eighty-eight years he has lived in the same town of his birth and served the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for over fifty years. Some years ago the railroad honored its men who had been in service for fifty years or over. The Advocate, Crestline, Ohio, the weekly newspaper, had the following notice. "Pennsy Veterans of 50 years service get Gold Buttons." "Joe Cover and George G. Hesser, of this city, and T. J. Shocker, of Mansfield, were among the thirty-two veterans who received gold buttons at a banquet given Tuesday evening at Fort Wayne, Indiana, by the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad for employees who had been in the service more than fifty years. Mr. Cover and Mr. Hesser are pensioners from the M. and E. Department and Mr. Shocker, former resident of Crestline, entered the service shortly after being mustered out of the Union Army where he served in the Civil War.

"The banquet was given for employees of the Western Region of which the Ft. Wayne Division is a part, and the gold buttons were presented to these veterans of fifty or more years of continuous ser-

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<sup>1</sup>For further information regarding this family see "The History of the Gerberich Family in America" compiled and edited by A. H. Gerberich and Albert H. Gerberich.





THE NEW FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, CRESTLINE, OHIO

Built in 1898 it continued to serve the Hesser family, the Castner family and the Morton family. They served on the building committee of the new church and your author served on the organ committee which selected a fine Estey pipe-organ. Here again the Hessers, Castners and Mortons while active in other departments of the church continued their assistance through the ministry of music.



vice by General Superintendent Higgenbottom of Fort Wayne. Addresses were made by a number of officials and the banquet was one of which will long be remembered, not only by the honor guests, but by all who attended or had any part in it."

At the present writing George Hesser (6) is well and enjoying to the full the life of his little home-town, Crestline, Ohio. The Crestline "Advocate" had the following article on the front page of the paper on March 5, 1925, at the time of his retirement from active duty.

"Penna. Employee on Honor Roll

George Hesser Retired on March 1, After Fifty-two Years of Faithful  
Service With Railroad Company

"After fifty-two years' faithful service with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, George Hesser, 204 Pearl Street, was placed on the company's roll of honor on March 1 and given a pension for the rest of his life.

"Quite a number of Pennsylvania employees have reached the fifty year mark but the ones who can boast of more years of service than that with one company are few. Mr. Hesser is one of them. He began work in the blacksmith shop in the old shops on February 11, 1873 which would be fifty-two years ago last month. The shop was then under the foremanship of D. W. Snyder. Mr. Hesser continued under Mr. Snyder until 1902 when Mr. Snyder retired and he was then promoted to foreman. He continued in this capacity until 1909 when ill health compelled him to give up the heavier duties in the blacksmith shop and he was transferred to the Railroad Y. M. C. A., where he assumed the duties of assistant to the secretary. He remained at the "Y" until the fall of 1918, when he again went back to the shops but not in the old roundhouse. He was given a position in the big modern institution out on West Bucyrus Street as a tool room attendant but later on was given a place as gate watchman at the main entrance to the shops. He held this position until it was abolished several months ago.

"Mr. Hesser is a native of Crestline. He was born here sixty-six years ago and has lived in this city all his life. He was married on June 22, 1881 to Miss Mary Ellen Garberich, of near Galion. They have a family of three children, Ernest, who is supervisor of music in the public schools of Indianapolis, Ind., Fred, one of the day fore-

men in the roundhouse (Pa. Railroad) at the present time, and Mrs. Nellie Hartman, who resides in Geneva, Ohio.

"In his fifty-two years of service, Mr. Hesser can look back and see many changes in railroad operation, changes not only in methods but in machinery and men as well. Up-to-date shops today are pretty well electrified, whereas in the old days most of the work was done by hand.

He retires with the best wishes not only of the higher officials of the Ft. Wayne division but the Northwest region as well. He is the possessor of a letter of congratulation from T. B. Hamilton, regional vice president and general manager of the Northwest region and also one from Divisional Superintendent R. H. Pinkham and Master Mechanic O. C. Wright."

*Issue:*

229. GEORGE ERNEST (7), b. Feb. 25, 1883; Crestline, Ohio; m. Ethel Martin of Crestline, Ohio, Oct. 7, 1907; res. 112 N. Thoman St., Crestline, Ohio.
230. FRED GARBERICH (7), b. Aug. 19, 1884, Crestline, Ohio; m. Grace Lashells of Crestline, Ohio; res. Crestline, Ohio.
231. SARAH NELLIE (7), b. June 24, 1887, Crestline, Ohio; m. Albert F. Hartman; res. Evansville, Indiana.

*References:*

The Crestline, Ohio, Advocate (weekly newspaper)  
Family Bible records





DR. GEORGE ERNEST HESSER  
Educator

Author and Compiler of the History and Genealogy  
of the Hesser Family



## 229 GEORGE ERNEST HESSER (7)

In Volume 24 for the years 1946-1947 of WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, "a biographical dictionary of notable living men and women," is the following article. For over the past twenty years he has been listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.

"HESSER, George Ernest, music edn.; b. Crestline, O., Feb. 25, 1883; s. George Gaylord and Mary Ellen (Garberich) H.; student Ohio Wesleyan U.; A.B., Winona (Ind.) Coll., 1905; grad. New Sch. of Methods, Chicago, 1908; studied voice with William Miles (Fort Wayne, Ind.), Dr. Carl Dufft (New York), William Shakespeare, Sir Frederick Bridge (London), etc.; Bach. of Music, Metropolitan School of Music (affiliate Butler U.); M. Pd., Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (Univ. of Cincinnati), 1924; Dr. Pd., 1927; M.Sc. in Edn., U. of Cincinnati, 1935; m. Ethel Martin, Oct. 7, 1907; children—James Martin, Ernest Grant. Teacher music and art, Kendallville (Ind.) pub. schs., 1906-08; supervisor music, Goshen, Ind., 1908-10, Pasadena, Calif., 1911-14; dir. music, Bowling Green (O.) State Normal Coll., 1914-20; dir. sch. music, Albany, N. Y., 1920-21; dir. music pub. schs. of Indianapolis, 1921-30, also head of pub. sch. music dept., Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music (Butler, U.); dir. music, pub. schs. of Cincinnati, 1930-36; also was prof. of methods, Univ. of Cincinnati; dir. of music, Coll. of Edn., New York Univ., 1936-42; director of music, Baltimore Public Schools, and prof. of methods, Peabody Conservatory, since 1942; dir. choir and music festivals; lecturer summer schs., U. of Calif., N. Y. State Coll. for Teachers, Cincinnati U., New York U., Peabody Conservatory; conductor Community Chorus, Matinee Musical Chorus and Teachers' Chorus; baritone soloist. Mem. Nat. Music Supervisors' Conf. (chmn. bd. 1923), Music Edn. Research Council of Music Educators' Nat. Conf., 1937-41; mem. Nat. Capital Music Educators Club (pres. 1944-45), Baltimore Ednl. Soc., N. E. A. (pres. music div., 1924-25), Am. Fed. Arts, Ind. State Mus. Adv. Com., Ind. State Teachers Assn. (pres. music sect., 1924), S.A.R., Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Delta Kappa; mem. Ednl. Council, Ohio Edn. Assn., 1931-36, pres. music sect., 1933; pres. In-and-About New York Music Edn. Club, 1940-41. Republican. Presbyterian. Mason. Clubs: Schoolmasters, Portfolio, Burns, Columbia, Rotary, The Bohemians, Beethoven Association. Author: Course of Study in Music for Elementary Schools of Ohio, 1917; Calendar Cycle of Rote Songs, 1918; Glee and Chorus Book for Male Voices, 1922. Co-editor: The Golden Book of Favorite Songs, 1923; The Gray Book of Favorite Songs, 1924; Treasure Chest of Songs, 1933. Chmn. state com. for writing an Ohio course of study in music education for Grades I-VI, 1935. Received Nat. Music War Council award for distinguished service,



1944. Contrb. articles on music to mags. and papers. Home: Fairfield's Farm, Bucks County, Jamison, Pa.; and Roland Park Apts., Upland Road. Address: Dept. of Education, 3 E. 25th St., Baltimore, Md."

After forty years of service in the field of education, George Ernest Hesser resigned his position as Director of Music in the Baltimore Public Schools Aug. 31, 1946. Upon his retirement from active School Music Supervision he and his wife returned to Crestline, Ohio, to make their home.

## 229 GEORGE ERNEST HESSER (7)

Born February 25, 1883

### CHILDHOOD

When one arrives at the age of three score years it is not so easy to look back and recall the days of one's childhood. Events seem a bit hazy and far away.

According to the family Bible I was born in Crestline, Ohio, (Crawford County) February 25th, 1883, the first child to be born to the union of George Gaylord Hesser and Mary Ellen Garberich. About the first incident I can recall was when my little baby brother was born (Fred Garberich Hesser). Proceedings in our household were somewhat changed for at this time a "hired-girl" put in her appearance in our home. However, she was very good to me and for many years I remember her not as a maid but as Hannah Broncar. We lived in a little frame house painted yellow with a fence around it on Columbus Street "on the west side of town" until I was about five years old. It was about this time that my little sister (Sarah Nellie) was born. With three children in the family it was necessary for Papa and Mamma to find a larger house, so they bought a home on Pierce Street which was located "across the tracks" on the east side of town. This house was next door to my grandparents (Langton Peter Hesser and Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser). Here we all lived, five of us, until I left Crestline. My childhood, I should say, was rather restricted in that we lived in a small railroad town of about three thousand inhabitants where cultural advantages were meager. I was a sensitive child and very early showed artistic tendencies. My father, a blacksmith, working in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops, earned a very small salary and it kept him busy working hard to "keep the wolf from the door." My dear mother was a tower of strength, not only in helping in the financing and management of the home but in giving me encouragement and instruction along musical lines. I remember as a little lad the day she brought the little old Estey reed organ from her home to ours. That was the first musical instrument to come into the home for us children. Mamma and Papa both loved to sing, in fact Papa met my





ETHEL MARTIN HESSER

Wife of the Author

A constant inspiration and faithful guide in the  
compilation of the Family History

mother for the first time at a Methodist Church choir practice where they both sang. Singing in the home with organ accompaniment by my mother was part of our almost daily enjoyment. Mamma had a natural deep contralto voice and Papa a rather high baritone. In that day when there were no movies or radios, it was "home talent" entertainment that found its place in the life of the small town and my parents on account of their singing ability contributed a great deal to the community. I can remember many of these occasions and the urge on my part to participate in operettas and vocal musical affairs. My mother was very encouraging along this line and was always so proud and appreciative of our early efforts. All of the music instruction my mother had was secured through the old-fashioned "singing-school" held in a school house in the country near her farm home.

I can remember very distinctly my mother taking me to school for the first time. I was six years old and entered the first grade. The East Side grade school (there were only two schools in Crestline at that time) was just about a block from home. There were three teachers in the building with two grades in each of the three rooms. I was in the fifth grade when music was first introduced into the schools. How thrilled I was when the music period was announced. A German music supervisor (Prof. Critzer) planned the music for our schools. He was very proficient and taught me how to read music. I shall always be indebted to him for having stressed the importance of acquiring skill in sight-reading. Through the use of the syllable names (do, re, mi) and numerals (1, 2, 3) we learned to read. His work was so thorough that I never had to take any courses in sight-reading. He later introduced us into the beauties of Choral singing. It was in the high school that we sang many of the great oratorio choruses from the "Messiah," "Elijah," "Creation," "Judas," as well as secular works such as "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast," and "The Rose Maiden."

It was about this time that upright pianos were becoming very popular in the homes in our community. I can remember teasing and begging mamma for a piano. We could not afford it but again my mother found a way. She traded in the old organ and financed the piano payments through selling juvenile books. How happy we children were the day the new piano arrived. My mother started



giving us lessons. Neither Brother Fred or I liked to practice but Sister Nellie did and later became a very proficient pianist and organist. From the very start I began to improvise on the piano and organ and enjoyed that much more than practicing exercises. So in a humble home where music was encouraged by a loving and understanding mother I received my start which carried me on toward the music profession.

#### PREPARATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

I finished the grade school and entered High School at the age of thirteen. Vocational guidance and guidance Councillors were unheard of in that day. I possibly would have been helped if there had been such service in the school. However, the urge and love of singing stayed with me during those adolescent years and seemed to grow stronger as I grew older. Math and Latin were the bane of my existence. I seemed to live each day for the afternoon chorus period. As I stated before our Music teacher introduced me into the realm of Choral music and this experience with the choral works of the masters was indeed of great benefit to my music education.

Before my voice changed I could sing a very respectable alto part and was invited to sing in our Methodist Church choir, much to the disgust of some of the older choir members who resented a "kid" coming into the choir. When my voice changed it seemed to be a rather high baritone quality. One of the teachers in the school system (Sarah Dunn, who later became the music supervisor in the schools and did a great deal for the musical life of the town) became interested in my voice. She was a very fine accompanist and coached me on a number of songs for solo performance. She took me to Galion (Ohio) where I sang in the Oratorio Society conducted by Prof. Critzer. Here I heard for the first time a number of great oratorio artists (Evans Williams, Dr. Carl Dufft, Gwillam Miles, Ian Jackson, Ernest Gamble, George Hamlin, Leo Long Todd, etc.). I was thrilled by their voices and artistry and decided that I too should be a great singer. My good friend, Sarah Dunn, realizing my deep interest in singing and also the need for voice culture, advised me to study with Mrs. Leo Long Todd who had located in Galion, Ohio. She had received excellent training and possessed a fine

dramatic soprano voice. As we had no voice teachers in my little home town I decided to study with her, going over to Galion (about five miles on the interurban electric line) once a week.

With two grown-ups and three children growing up, a small family income and an economic situation known as "hard times," I, at the early age of eleven, acquired a newspaper route. I was quite thrilled to help with the family budget, getting up early every morning and delivering my papers before school. From that time on I bought my own clothes and secured my musical education.

A little later I secured a job in William Snyder's grocery store working before and after school. I did this while I was going to high school. It was while I was in high school that my father's health seemed to break, a nervous breakdown the doctor said, and he was unable to work for a long time. Being the oldest child, it seemed necessary for me to help my mother in caring for the finances of the family. It seemed wise that I give up high school and "go to work." So I began working for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a night "caller" of freight and passenger crews. Later I went into the Yard Master's Office as a night clerk. This change did not in any way diminish the urge within me to become a singer.

Our Methodist minister, Rev. Upp, recognized my talent and ambition through my choir singing and talked to me about going to Ohio Wesleyan University to study music. About this time a young theological student from O. W. U. came to our church and organized the Epworth League. He also became interested in me and my music ability and advised my going to that institution. I might add that his name was Dr. Ralph Diffendorfer who later became one of the leaders in the Methodist Church. I was still working at night in the yard office and was relieved from work at six o'clock each morning. After talking the matter over with my mother I decided to go to O. W. U. one or two days a week for music study. After working all night I could leave on the six-thirty a. m. train on the Big Four Railroad for Delaware, Ohio, take my lessons and get back home by one o'clock p. m. I wrote Dr. Ralph Diffendorfer that I was coming and he was most kind in introducing me and showing me about in the college town. This new experience was quite thrilling and it made me wish more than ever that I might be a regular full time student in this fine school.



Working at night and trying to sleep in the daytime grew very monotonous for a youngster and I was fortunate in being able to negotiate a transfer from the yard office to the Master Mechanics Office which was a daytime job. I continued my vocal study and took part in many local music affairs.

It was at this time that I secured my first paying music position. I was hired as baritone soloist in the First Presbyterian Church choir in Mansfield, Ohio, singing there for two services each Sunday. My voice teacher in Galion, Ohio, (Mrs. Leo Long Todd) felt that I should continue my vocal study with her former teacher, Mr. William Miles, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and urged me to go to him. This I did, resigning my railroad position and securing a position in Ft. Wayne so that I might continue my vocal study with Professor Miles.

Professor Miles was the director of Music in the City Public Schools; also a choir master in one of the leading churches. I lived with him and his very musical wife in their home and not only studied voice but became very interested in music education in the schools. He gave me instruction in public school music methods and arranged for me to observe him at work in the public schools. He felt that public school music teaching was one of the coming music professions and encouraged me to go into this field of music work.

While I was in Ft. Wayne I was the presenter (soloist) in the Westminster Presbyterian Church and also did a great deal of solo singing in and about Ft. Wayne. Prof. Miles was a native of Wales and was called on to adjudicate for many of the Welsh eistedfods. I recall his taking me to Winona Lake (Indiana) to sing in one of these contests. My contest solo was "The Toreador's Song" from "Carmen" by Bizet. Both Prof. Miles and Mrs. Todd were great lovers of the oratorio and used the arias from these works as studies in my voice work. In consequence I learned the baritoné roles of the "Messiah," "Elijah," "Creation," "Judas Maccabaeus," "St. Paul," and such cantatas and motets as Stainers "Crucifixion," "Olivet to Calvary," "The Seven Last Words," and the "Resurrection."

My love for vocal music and especially solo singing was very keen. I had learned hundreds of songs and arias and gave many recitals. I had style, interpretative ability, and a pleasing personality. In that

day the field for the concert and oratorio artist was quite lucrative. Of course it meant that the artist, in order to succeed, must have a manager to promote and advertise him. It took money to underwrite such a procedure and this the writer did not have. I think my dear Professor Miles realized all of this and in lieu of a concert profession (which I had hoped for so dearly) stressed the importance of teaching music in the public schools as a greater field of endeavor. As he so often said, "Ernest, you need not give up your solo work, but add to it the great art of teaching all the children of all of the people in your Community." In this he proved to be exactly right for I kept on with my singing but entered into the great field of music education which was just coming into its own.

#### MUSIC EDUCATION AS A PROFESSION

One day while taking my voice lesson Professor Miles asked me if I would like to make twenty-five dollars. "They want a soloist to sing for their High School Commencement Exercises in Kendalville (Indiana) Will you go?" I went and they seemed to like me and my singing, so much so, that they wrote Professor Miles asking him if I would come to their town that fall to teach music and drawing. After meeting the Board of Education I accepted the position. Well, that was the beginning of my professional career as a public school music teacher, supervisor, and director. I must confess that I knew very little about "drawing" (as it was called) but having some natural talent along the art line and with the aid of the former teachers' outlines I "rushed in where angels" might have hesitated. My first two years experience in Kendalville were eventful ones. I began teaching September 19 and on October 7th, 1907, I was married to Ethel Martin in Crestline, Ohio.

We were married in the Presbyterian Church. It was a beautiful wedding in every respect. My lovely bride wore a white silk princess gown and veil and entered on the arm of her father, James M. Martin, to the strains of Lohengrin's "Wedding March." About two hundred of our friends and relatives were there and after the final vows were read and the processional from the church to the accompaniment of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was completed a happy and successful union which has always been adventurous was begun.



We went to housekeeping in a little cottage which had never been occupied. Ethel, who was to my way of thinking the most wonderful girl in the world, was not only an efficient home-maker but one who possessed social graces and intelligence. She had graduated from the Crestline High School, attended Ohio Wesleyan University, studied music and had been a successful teacher in the elementary schools.

My school salary was not large but I was able to supplement it by continuing my Sunday church position in Ft. Wayne and by teaching privately (voice culture) in our home on Saturdays. Ethel added to the family income the second year by going to a nearby town (Rome City, Indiana) several days a week to teach music in the schools.

I was very ambitious and anxious to succeed in life. My wife shared these feelings and encouraged and sacrificed with me in preparing further for the profession that I was to follow. The preparation of a public school music educator at that time was very different from the requirements now made by State Departments of Education. There were just a few summer schools in existence that offered courses in public school music pedagogy (methods). These were maintained largely by publishing firms who were promoting their music readers and materials for the schools. As the public school music field developed, colleges, state schools and music conservatories developed and have maintained courses and curriculums for the preparation and training of teachers and supervisors of public school music. These courses led to college degrees which later state departments and public school officials required for state music certification. So with the raising of state requirements and standards and an urge on my part to become a better musician and leader, it became necessary that my education meet these requirements.

The first summer following our marriage and a number of succeeding summers I spent in summer schools in Chicago studying and working under music education leaders such as Eleanor Smith (Hull House), Jessie L. Gaynor, Thomas Tapper, Will Earhart, H. L. Coburn.

While in Chicago that first summer I not only attended the music school but the Prang Drawing School where I came under the instruction of some of the leading art educators of the day (Bonnie Snow, Froelich, etc.). The second summer in Chicago my dear

Prof. Miles and I roomed together which was indeed a great pleasure. To see a man of his age (about sixty-five) going to school with all of the interest and enthusiasm of a youngster showed the bigness of the man. He was always interested in keeping abreast of the times and instilled in me the idea of constantly being aware of the changes in the style of education.

There prevailed at that time a feeling among musicians that it was necessary to go abroad to acquire musical instruction and culture, so my good wife and I decided that we would make the effort to acquire that veneer that seemed to bring prestige. It meant that I had to earn the money to defray the expenses of the trip as well as study. To add to the responsibility of the day our first child had arrived (James Martin Hesser).

I can recall my busy days the year preceeding my going abroad and how every penny was saved for the great trip over. We were living in Goshen, Indiana, where I was supervisor of music. That year in addition to my work in the schools I drilled three church choirs each week. I directed the Presbyterian choir on Sunday morning, the Methodist choir in the evening and prepared the Reformed Church choir for their own services. On Saturday I taught privately giving voice culture to a sizable class. And so the money was earned and I sailed from New York City for London on the Cunard Line's R. M. S. "Baltic" which was the largest ship afloat at that time.

I arrived in London safely and immediately went out to St. John's Wood, the home of William Shakespeare, with whom I was to study voice. He was a very kind person and did many things to make me feel at home. He gave me a copy of his text (which he autographed) "The Art of Singing" which was my Bible during my vocal study with him. Knowing of my interest in children's voices he took me to meet his friend, Sir Frederick Bridge, organist and choir master at Westminster Abbey. He arranged with Sir Frederick for me to observe the training of the boys' voices in the Abbey's Chapter School. It was a great privilege to see this master at work with the boys and to note the vocal exercises he used and the results he achieved. I attended his choir rehearsals and then would sit in the abbey choir stalls participating in the morning and afternoon services.



I also observed the boy choir work at Westminster Cathedral (Catholic) under the leadership of Mr. Terry as well as the work at St. Pauls. It was in London that I met the young American composer, Charles Wakefield Cadman. We were attending a recital of Liza Lehman's songs. She was very charming to meet and Cadman, who was making use of American Indian Melodies, was most interested in Lehmann's East Indian songs. I also met the American composer, Emerson Whithorne, who was at that time the London representative for the New York Musical Courier. I remember we attended some recitals together at Leighton House given by Mme. Marchesi and George Copeland.

My funds would not permit a very great expenditure for entertainment but I was able to attend a number of grand opera performances at Covent Garden. By standing in line for several hours I could buy a seat in the topmost gallery for two shillings and a sixpence. I recall one command performance which was quite thrilling. The King and Queen were there and it was the first performance of Charpentier's "Louise." I heard Calvi for the first time and Tetrazzini and many of the other great artists of that day.

Before returning home I made a trip to Scotland taking what was called the Cathedral tour. I visited Oxford, Ely, Lincoln, Peterborough, York and Edinburgh. I was entertained by Lord and Lady Guthrie at Swanson Cottage, the home of Robert Louis Stevenson. I will always remember the trip through the Trossacks (Loch Lomond, Ellen's Isle, Loch Ochrey and the purple heather that covered the highlands and the bag-pipe music on the way).

Our American Ambassador to the Court of St. James was White-law Reid. Mr. Shakespeare had told me about the beautiful reception he gave each year on the 4th of July to the Americans in London. The Ambassador and Mrs. Reid lived in Dorchester House, a beautiful palace belonging to the Royal Family. I was quite thrilled when I received an invitation to the affair. I was received and presented to Mr. and Mrs. Reid in what seemed to me a very courtly manner. Then I wandered through the galleries (along with hundreds of others) to the garden where every possible type of liquor and refreshment was served. I knew then that it took a great deal of money to maintain an Embassy in London.

By handling my finances carefully I found that I had enough money left to go across the Channel and see a bit of the Continent before my return home. I sailed from Hull (England) to Rotterdam and visited a number of towns and cities in Holland. The Ricks Art Gallery in Amsterdam, Queen Wilhelmina's Palace (the House in the Wood) at the Hague, the Edam Cheese Factories, the windmills and dykes and quaint white churches and the people on the isle of Marken were some of the high lights of that low country. I went then to Belgium, visiting Brugges, Brussels and Antwerp; then on to Paris where I did some vocal study with Isadore Luckstone. From Paris I returned to London for a short stay then sailed for America.

My study abroad proved to be very helpful and as I had anticipated gave me a certain amount of prestige. It proved helpful in securing preferment and future positions.

I returned to Goshen, Indiana, from my study abroad with a greater desire to advance in my chosen field of music education. I was offered a summer position at the Kansas State Teachers College (Emporia, Kans.) as head of the department, which I accepted. Toward the close of the summer session the President invited me to take over the work for the coming year. Their head of the department, (Frank Beach) was taking a year's leave of absence and he did not expect him to return. I accepted, and resigned my Goshen position. We moved to Emporia for the year where I acquired valuable experience working in a teacher-training institution. At the end of the year Mr. Beach decided to return so we went farther west. During the year in Emporia I had come to know the Superintendent of the Pasadena (California) Public Schools. He wanted a Supervisor of Music for his public school system and asked me to take over the work at an increase in salary. I accepted and we moved from Emporia to Pasadena.

This was a great change, indeed, going from a temperate climate to a semi-tropical one. The school system, too, was a very progressive one and it kept me "on my toes" planning for this modern school system. While there I also directed the Methodist Church Choir of South Pasadena. At the end of my second year I went back East to take charge of the summer school music at Winona College (Winona Lake, Ind.). While there Dr. H. B. Williams, the newly appointed President of the Bowling Green State Teachers College



(Ohio), contacted me and persuaded me to accept the music directorship for this new state school. I secured a release from the Pasadena school authorities and we returned to my home state.

### BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

My experience at the Bowling Green State School was varied and rich in many ways. It was the opening year of this new school. There were no traditions and everything was to be started. I was eager to do things and so, with a creative mind and an aggressive temperment, I initiated many things in which both the college and community participated. One of these was a Music Festival which developed into a three-day annual music event. It attracted music lovers and students from all of northwestern Ohio. I organized a large festival chorus made up of college students and members of the various choirs of the town and also a children's chorus from the public schools. We sang many of the standard oratorios and cantatas. I also brought outstanding artists and such symphony orchestras as the New York Symphony (Walter Damrosch, Conductor), the Minneapolis Symphony (Emil Oberhoffer, Conductor), the Detroit Symphony (Ossip Gabrilovitch, Conductor), the Cleveland Symphony (Nicoli Sokoloff, Conductor) and the Russian Symphony (Modest Altschuler, Conductor) for these festivals. As these musicals were new to the community, I not only acted as musical director but as business manager and advertising agent as well. The town cooperated nobly in the sale of tickets and in many other ways.

On one of his visits to our College, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Ohio) asked me if I would write a State Course of Study in music education. I accepted the assignment and I believe it was the first music course of study to be published by the State Department in Ohio.

Here in Bowling Green we built our first house. It was a charming little Colonial cottage on North Main Street and we thoroughly enjoyed the planning and furnishing of it. Here, too, in Bowling Green on January 11th, 1919, our second son (Ernest Grant) was born. (At the present writing he is serving his Country in the Second World War as a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy.)

I was located here during the First World War and was loaned by my president to do entertainment work in camps and in com-

munity singing activities in connection with the War Bond drives. I helped in the Camp-Community Service in northwestern Ohio which was furthering the buying of War Bonds. I did a great deal of solo singing and for awhile was soloist at the First Congregational Church, Toledo, Ohio, and gave several programs in the Toledo Art Museum. The Bowling Green State School had absorbed the old Toledo Normal School, so, until the new state buildings were completed my time was divided between Bowling Green and Toledo where a part of my classes were conducted. As an extra curricular activity I directed the First Methodist Church Chorus Choir in Bowling Green.

For six years I did what might be called pioneer work in building a fine musical background for a fine school. Then a superintendent from Albany, New York, came to see me and invited me to take charge of the music work in his public school system. I considered it a promotion and as it was a raise in salary I accepted. Here I worked in the capitol of the Empire State for one year. It was an interesting experience living in an Eastern city. Besides my work in the schools I was baritone soloist in the fine old aristocratic First Presbyterian Church which was organized during the Revolutionary War. I also had charge of the public school music work in the N. Y. State College for Teachers during the summer sessions in Albany.

Toward the close of that first year in Albany I received a letter from the superintendent of the Indianapolis (Indiana) public schools asking me to meet him in New York City. He stated that he was looking for a supervisor of music for his schools and felt that he had a proposition that might be attractive to me. It was attractive for several reasons: a larger salary, a larger city, and an opportunity for me to work out a degree. I accepted his invitation and we moved from Albany to Indianapolis.

#### INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Indianapolis, the capitol of the Hoosier State, is in many ways an interesting city. Very different indeed from the staid, old, aristocratic city of Albany. It seemed like getting back home and we fit into the life of the Indiana metropolis in a very pleasant way. The Superintendent of Schools was interested in music education and



cooperated in every way toward better music education in the schools. My assistants were enthusiastic, helpful, and capable. We compiled a new music course of study and I organized a Teachers Chorus of several hundred voices. This chorus of public school teachers (over two hundred voices) was one of the first of its kind. It attracted a great deal of attention from educators all over the country. We were invited by President William McAndrew of Chicago to sing for the National Education Association Convention in Cincinnati and traveled in a special train from Indianapolis to that city where we gave an American program in Music Hall. Following this performance, choruses of public school teachers sprang up everywhere. I received many letters from superintendents inquiring how to organize and conduct such a group.

The Metropolitan School of Music, the leading music school, invited me to teach and direct their music education department. This I did and was able to work out a curriculum for the training of supervisors of music in the public schools. With the aid of some of the faculty members we organized and installed a Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha (Sinfonia) which seemed to bring some new life into the institution. In this school, which was affiliated with Butler University, I was able to work out my Bachelor of Music Degree. Later this school was merged with the Indiana College of Music and Art and became the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music.

For three years I was soloist in the Christian Science Church located in Irvington and for the following six years I directed the Central Avenue M. E. Church choir. This I think was the finest choir I ever directed. It was made possible through the generosity of one of the members of the congregation. He was desirous of making it the finest choir in the city and furnished the money to employ the best talent. At first we had a paid quartet and a volunteer chorus. Later he paid about twenty members for their services. We sang the finest of church choral literature, and gave many concerts and programs outside of the church.

The social life of this city was very pleasant, indeed, and we found it hard not to become too involved in it all. We were invited into the very exclusive Portfolio Club and enjoyed there the associations of the artistic and literary folk which made up the group. Booth Tark-

ington's father was one of the founders of the club and such men as James Whitcomb Riley, Meredith Nicholson, William Forsythe,-- Steel, Otto Stark, Wayman Adams, Clifton Wheeler, Albert Beveridge and George Ade were a part of the membership. I was honored the year before leaving the city to be its president.

We found the Irvington Dramatic Club to be very interesting for it was in this cultured center "Irvington" that we lived. Here we built our second home. It was a Southern Colonial type of house on a hillside overlooking Ellenberger Park and Stream. I was made an honorary member of the Maennerchor and we especially enjoyed the artist concerts which they sponsored. I was also a member of the Columbia and Exchange Clubs and directed the Scottish Rite Cathedral Choir. It was my last year in Indianapolis that Ethel and I decided to take our belated honeymoon—a trip to Europe. I am giving an account of this trip under the heading of "My Musical Pilgrimage." The nine years spent in the Hoosier Capitol were busy ones but always exciting and pleasant. We made many friends and the friendship of some have continued through the years.

### MY MUSICAL PILGRIMAGE

In looking backward over our summer's travel in Europe, I am reminded of nothing quite so much as the pilgrimage made to Canterbury of which Chaucer wrote so naively in the 14th century. Our trip was veritably a pilgrimage to the music world of Western Europe. Many and varied were the other pilgrims with whom we were brought in contact, all devotees of Frau Musica; all bound for a common shrine, as were the wayfarers of Chaucer's narrative, and interesting indeed were the tales they had to tell and the philosophies and visions they entertained.

Mrs. Hesser and I entered upon our journey Monday, July 15th, 1929, at Midnight on the good ship "Berengaria," sailing from New York. As a preamble to our musical journey, we had heard the previous morning at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the song service of the New York University Chorus Choir of seventy voices directed by Dr. Hollis Dann, head of the Music Education Department of the University. This program included such selections as Spohr's "Soldiers of the Captain" by the male voices a cappella; West's "I will arise and go to my Father"; Schuetky's "Emitte



Spiritum tuum"; and a Dubois number "Christ We do all Adore Thee" from the "Seven Last Words of Christ." Sung in a sincere and musicianly manner, the service was in essence a fitting prelude, spiritually and musically, to our pilgrimage.

Tuesday morning we were afloat. Good weather was accorded us by the powers that rule the deep. For six days we lived and moved and breathed to the rising and falling cadences of the deep orchestral choirs of the sea and the obligata of the breeze or piping wind.

The following Sabbath was observed by a morning service of the Church of England (Episcopalian) conducted by Sir Arthur H. Rostron, the Captain of the *Berengaria*. The Ship's Choir was made up of perhaps forty stewards and officers. Their singing sounded very well and added grace and vitality to the service.

Our first taste of European music was in Paris where we attended both the Grand Opera and the Opera Comique. At the former we heard Moussorgsky's "Boris Goudunov" and Gounod's "Faust." "Boris" was very well done. "Faust" was beautifully staged, all the details of costuming and pageantry being appropriately and harmoniously taken care of.

Massenet's "Manon" was the bill at the opera comique, with our American singer, Mary McCormick, in the title role. Both historically and vocally her work was outstanding. In fact as a whole the production of "Manon" surpassed both "Boris" and "Faust" and our enjoyment was enhanced by the intimacy of the smaller opera house.

The next stop on our pilgrimage was at Geneva in Switzerland where the seventh annual World Federation of Education Associations was in progress. Our Sunday morning in this city was spent at the National or Union Church of Switzerland, a beautiful old cathedral next door to John Knox's Church. The service was in French. The church had a large organ, but no choir. The church members arrived carrying their own hymn books and joined one another in singing beautiful Bach Chorales. The leader stood on a slightly raised platform near the minister, leading the singing with his voice only. In the afternoon we heard some beautiful part-singing and yodeling by the peasants up on Mount Saleve. As we were

unable to secure tickets for the Jacques-Dalcroze performance we missed this interesting demonstration in interpretive dancing and eurythmics.

I should like here to digress just a moment in order to speak a word regarding the International Educational Conference at Geneva. This was the third biennial meeting. I acted as a delegate from Indianapolis, Indiana. Its activities centered around international brotherhood. There were nineteen sectional meetings at whose sessions were discussed among others subjects such as the following: International Good Will; Preparation of Teachers; Social Adjustment through Education; Illiteracy; Practical Education; Health Education; Education and the Press.

Five standing Committees authorized in San Francisco in 1923, and known as the Herman-Jordan Committees, outlined the plans for these Conferences, along the following lines:

Committee No. I—Education for Peace

Committee No. II—Teaching of History and Patriotism

Committee No. III—International Athletic Sports

Committee No. IV—Military Education and Preparedness

Committee No. V—General Machinery for International Co-operation

In connection with the conference there was an exhibition of educational work of all types; one of the most outstanding departments of which was the display of children's art specimens.

The work of Professor Cizek's Juvenile Art Class in Vienna was particularly noteworthy. This school is being subsidized by the Junior Red Cross. Only talented pupils from five to fourteen years of age are accepted. The purpose of the school is not to "teach" the pupils, nor to develop artists, but to give the children an opportunity to express their feelings and thoughts in the way they like; and to help them "see beauty in daily life." Their work was remarkable.

From Geneva we took a boat across Lake Lemon to Lausanne. I was struck with the fact that the little orchestra on the boat played good music—no jazz. We had noticed the same thing about the orchestras in the street cafes. In fact, we heard jazz in only one instance on our entire tour of Europe.



Of course we attempted some mountain climbing, Mrs. Hesser exceeding me in endurance. During our climb up the Jungfrau, we heard what I thought to be xylophones played possibly by peasants down in the valley. It proved to be the distant tinkling of the cowbells, their music mellowed by the distance. The effect was most delightful. It sounded like music on a thousand hills. On the same day we again heard Swiss peasants singing their folk songs and yodeling as only natives can do.

Beautiful Lausanne—which guide books describe as owing “Its reputation to its excellent schools, fine climate, and very good doctors,” without even so much as a hint regarding its wonderful scenic location—beautiful Lausanne was the host for the First Anglo-American Music Conference for the British Empire and American Musicians and Educationists.

What a wonderful meeting it was and how much we appreciated being able to attend the very first gathering of this kind. There were in attendance about two hundred and fifty English and one hundred and fifty American musicians and Educators, both men and women. Among the notables from America were Miss Mabelle Glenn, President of the Music Supervisors National Conference; Paul Weaver, Head of the Music Faculty of Cornell University; Dean Peter Lutkin from Northwestern University School of Music; George H. Gartlan, Director of Music in the public schools, New York City; T. F. H. Candlyn, Organist and Choir Master of Albany, N. Y.; Will Earhart, Director of Music, Pittsburgh; William Arms Fisher, Boston; Arthur Heacox, Oberlin Conservatory, Ohio; Walter Damrosch was the American President of the Conference; Arthur Searle, Detroit and Arthur Shepherd, Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. There were four of us from Indianapolis—Willard McGregor of the Arthur Jordan Conservatory and Henry O. Hebert, a new member of the Music Department at Arsenal Technical High School in addition to Mrs. Hesser and myself.

The formal opening of the Conference took place at 2:30 in the afternoon of August 2nd at the Palace Hotel, Sir Henry Hadow, English President of the Conference, and Percy Scholes, eminent British writer on music presiding with Miss Mabel Glenn of America.

Sir Henry was an excellent speaker. His presidential address sparkled with wit and repartee and displayed a beautiful command of English and an unusual versatility of knowledge.

Among the notable addresses at the Conference was one by Prof. Lewis of Tufts' College on "Mechanism and Artistry" (devoted to the phonograph, piano, and radio, as aids to music education); and another on "Music, a Universal Language and its Place in Education" by Dr. Augustus O. Thomas, President of the Geneva Conference. But the most interesting one by far to me was given by Dr. E. C. Bairstow, Professor of Music at the University of Durham and organist at York Cathedral—on the subject "The Training of Church Choirs." His talk was very instructive and helpful. He organized a choir of fifty or sixty of the Conference members, illustrating his points by demonstrations with this choir. Here are just a few gems which I jotted down during his speech:

"Singing is speech beautified.

"Singing is inspiration and expression.

"Breathe according to the music, not the words.

"Breathe as if thrilled.

"Love opens things; fear closes things. There must be love of the act of singing; love of the words (poetry); love of beauty and always good things; love of your neighbor."

To choirmasters, Dr. Bairstow gave the following advice: "Don't be dull; be different. Do what you think is right; don't be conventional."

I was most fortunate in being a member of the impromptu choir and learning at first hand something of Dr. Bairstow's methods. The English people seemed to feel that he was at present the leading choir and organ authority of England.

In addition to the general meetings there were daily sectional meetings on Elementary School Music; Secondary School Music; University Music; Church Music; Vocal Teaching and Choral Training; Pianoforte Teaching; Orchestral Work in Schools; Competition Festivals. Since I had the privilege of being the American Chairman of the Church Music Committee, I was unable to hear much of the programs of the other sectional meetings.



My British co-chairman was Harvey Grace, editor of "the Musical Times," London. Speakers for this sectional program were T. F. H. Candlyn, Albany, N. Y. whose subject was "Training Church Choirs;" Dean Peter C. Lutkin of Northwestern University spoke on "A Historical Survey of Church Music Conditions in America." In the time allotted me, I traced the historical development of the American Church Choir, showing how it was the direct outgrowth of the activities of the early American singing schools and singing Masters.

On another occasion I was privileged to tell of Vocal Music in the American High Schools and to give a report of the work of the Committee on Vocal Affairs of the Music Supervisors National Conference in America of which I was chairman.

An interesting feature of the Lausanne Conference were the music programs arranged for noon and evening by a Committee of four of us, two British and two Americans. We were called "Masters of the Musick." Our programs were arranged after we arrived in Lausanne, but there was such a goodly array of talent present, that our work, though no easy task, bore good fruit. Among the artists who presented unusually fine programs was of course our own American, Willard McGregor, artist pianist who appeared twice, playing once a Brahms's sonata and at another time a Bach and Chopin program. Mr. McGregor was exceptionally well received,—Indianapolis may well be proud of him. Another fine recital was that of Andre de Rebaupierre and Arthur Shepherd in two sonatas for violin and piano.

One of these was the work of David Stanley Smith of Yale University; the other composed by Arthur Shepherd himself. Both were interesting works and were exceedingly well performed. The foremost vocal soloist of the Conference was Steuart Wilson, English tenor. Sir Henry Hadow stated that Mr. Wilson is England's outstanding tenor, a beautiful singer. He is this season on his first American tour.

The Sunday evening music in the Cathedral of Lausanne was noteworthy. It included the following numbers:

## ANGLO-AMERICAN MUSIC CONFERENCE

Sunday Evening Music in the Cathedral of Lausanne

August 4, 1929

1. ORGAN SOLO (Prelude and Fugue in B minor) ---- J. S. Bach  
Dr. E. C. Bairstow (York, Eng.)
2. "INFLAMMATUS" From "Stabat Mater" ----- Dvorak  
Miss MILLICENT RUSSELL (London, Eng.)
3. CANTATA No. 189 ("Meine seele ruhmt und priest")—"Come  
my spirit")  
Translation by Charles Sanford Terry ----- J. S. Bach  
Mr. PERCY MANCHESTER (London, Eng.)
4. ORGAN SOLO (Concerto in D minor) ----- T. F. H. Candlyn  
(Allegro-Largo-Allegro)  
Mr. FREDERICK H. CANDLYN (Albany, N. Y.)
5. EVENING HYMN ----- Henry Purcell  
Miss MILLICENT RUSSELL
6. A SONG OF WISDOM ----- C. Villiers Stanford  
Mr. PERCY MANCHESTER
7. ORGAN SOLOS
  - a) PRELUDE on the English Psalm tune 'St. Mary' --  
----- Charles Wood
  - b) PRELUDE on the Welsh hymn melody 'Rhosymedre'  
(‘Lovely’) ----- R. Vaughan Williams
  - c) TOCCATA & PRELUDE on the Plainsong Hymn Mel-  
ody "Pange Lingua" ----- E. C. Bairstow  
Dr. E. C. BAIRSTOW

I must not forget to mention also that we heard a demonstration program of the new double key-board piano. The inventor, Emmanuel Moore explained it and his wife, a very talented artist played a recital on it.

One of the most interesting features of the Conference was the light it shed on British character. Invariably we found among them a fondness for discussion. They seem to dislike set speeches or addresses and spent what seemed hours to us, discussing and arguing over some trivial matter, each one wanting his say. I suspect that the American tendency to look at things in a large way and to make



decisions quickly was quite as amazing to them, as their seeming waste of time was to us. And how they love their tea! No afternoon meeting was ever too formal nor too important to be interrupted by the serving of tea at four o'clock.

On Thursday afternoon, August 8th, we left Lausanne for Munich, going by the way of Lucerne and Interlocken. It was in Munich at the Mozart and Wagner Festival that we heard the best opera of our whole trip—a most wonderful performance of Wagner's "Das Rheingold." It was given at the Prince Regent Theatre which is musically constructed with regard to seating arrangements. The marvelous orchestra was seated below stage; and the full harmonies of Wagner's superb music, coming from that invisible source, created both an atmosphere and a dramatic effect. The singers all had great, glorious voices, pure and clear. The entire production was the most perfect one we had ever seen or heard.

Another delightful performance was that of Mozart's "Magic Flute" at the Palace Residence Theatre, also in Munich. This was charmingly done in that cream and gold rococo room constructed by and for the former King Ludwig. The place seemed like a toy opera house, so tiny; but its diminutive size lent an atmosphere of intimacy which enhanced the beauty of Mozart. The performance was beautifully staged and given without a cut. This made a long performance lasting from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Both the chorus work and the stage management were far superior to that of the Paris opera. We had hoped to see Richard Strauss at the baton, but in this we were disappointed—he was indisposed.

On Sunday we attended high mass at the Franenkirche (The Dom) where they are said to have the best church music in Munich. The organ was very fine and the choir of twenty or thirty voices likewise so. All the singing was a cappella and consisted of Gregorian plain song and the works of Palestrina. The dying away of the voices and the echoing was very effective in this great church.

Munich has a wonderful carillon in the clock-tower of the Rathaus or Town Hall. It attracted great crowds daily at eleven o'clock, when dancing figures came out and performed a festival scene. Then the Knights marched by in review, bowing before the King and Queen. At the close of the performance a great rooster appeared

and crowded three times. As a musical accompaniment to it all, the carillon played a beautiful German folk tune. The Munich carillon is not as loud as the New York one at the Riverside Church, nor is the tone quality as good.

In Nuremberg which was our next stop, the beautiful opera house was dark. We had a rare treat however, in "Miss Chocolate" which was widely advertised as an American jazz-opera. It surely was funny. The music was no more like our jazz than a symphony. Then, of course, the portrayal of American characters was ridiculous.

On our tour about the city, we were shown several sites which were used by Wagner in "Die Meistersinger" including the Guild hall and the church where the Mastersingers met. We saw also the home and statue of Hans Sachs, the cobbler-poet of Nuremberg, whom Wagner used as one of his characters; and the home and statue of Albrecht Durer, Germany's greatest painter. The Nuremberg Musical Clock was interesting, where every day at noon the seven electors of Germany came out and bowed before King Charles.

From Nuremberg we proceeded to Bayreuth, the world Shrine of all music lovers. The quaint old-fashioned city lies nestled in the Bavarian hills. Immediately after lunch at Hotel Schwarzes Ross, we started out on a visit to the various celebrated points of interest. First we walked to the home of the great master, Richard Wagner. It is called "Wahnfried." The fine old brown-stone mansion is situated far back from the street and is approached by an avenue of lovely old trees, to which entrance is gained through a big iron gate. In front of the house on a pedestal is a bust of Ludwig II, Wagner's friend and benefactor.

The care-taker took us around the house to the rear garden beautifully planted in roses and dahlias; then to the Master's grave in the rear of the garden. A plain slab of dark granite marble and his bust on a pedestal mark the resting place of the immortal Wagner. The grave is overgrown with English ivy.

Frau Cosima Wagner, 93 years old and almost blind with Siegfried Wagner, the Master's illustrious son, lived in the old brown stone mansion. Just across the street is the former home of Franz Liszt. From "Wahnfried" we walked to the "Festspielhaus" or festival theatre. It was a long walk. It led us through the city and up a



long hill through an avenue of trees which extended from the valley to the top of the hill, where the opera house is situated. The house-master took us through. We saw the wonderful stage which measures 71 by 86 feet and the immense orchestra pit, below the stage as in Munich and accommodating the festival orchestra of one hundred and thirty two players. The auditorium seats fifteen hundred. A large number of workmen were present making and painting scenery in preparation for the next festival in 1930. One can gather an idea of the extent of this work from the fact that a small factory for making scenery for the festival plays exclusively is situated directly back of the opera house. We saw also the stage settings for some of the operas—The Ring, Parsifal, Die Meistersinger, etc. The prospectus for the coming season indicated 5 performances of "Tannhauser," 3 of "Tristan," 5 of "Parsifal" and 2 of the "Ring." The season begins Tuesday, July 22, ending Thursday August 21. All performances begin at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The price of each performance is 30 mark. We walked back to the hotel, very tired but happy over the interesting things we had seen. Our next morning's walk took us to the grave of Liszt. Through the door of the stone Mausoleum, we saw the marble slab which bears the inscription, Abbe Franz Liszt, a brown wooden cross stands at the head of the slab.

We made one more visit to Wagner's grave taking with us this time a large bouquet of dahlias, which we placed on the Master's last resting place in the name of the Music Department of the Indianapolis Public Schools.

We had been hoping all along that we might see Siegfried Wagner and in this we were not disappointed. On our first evening in Bayreuth we were out walking and passed him and his wife with two of the children. He was dressed for tramping in sweater and knickers. We passed him again the next morning. Then when we paid our respects to his father's grave the second time with the flowers he came to the window and bowed to us. We returned the greeting and passed on our way, out through the iron gates and down the street which bears the Master's name.

Heidelberg, the famous university town was our next objective. Here we heard some excellent band music in the public garden. As

we toured the city our guide pointed out the site made use of by the composer of "The Student Prince." He took us also through the little village of Siegelhausen, where Brahms spent his holidays and did some of his composing. Heidelberg is always associated in my mind with the old song from the "Prince of Pilsen"—"O Heidelberg, Dear Heidelberg" and it kept ringing in my ears. But of course it is not a popular song there. Instead we heard the university students singing: "I lost my heart in Heidelberg."

In Wiesbaden, which was our next stopping place we heard some really fine symphonic programs played by an orchestra of nearly a hundred men. This was in the Kurhaus Park. Three concerts daily were given. The orchestra played exceptionally well, and the great audience which thronged the park was singularly appreciative and attentive. I was reminded again here in this popular watering place that good music is the order of the day in Europe; jazz seems to have no place.

After a beautiful trip down the Rhine from Wiesbaden, we arrived at the fine old city of Bonn; which is musically of interest from the fact that it is the birthplace of Beethoven. The small house in which he was born is situated in a side street. It has been made into a museum. Very few material possessions remain to be shown, for Beethoven was unencumbered with earthly goods. But his spinet is there, and the piano which was specially constructed for his use in Vienna, also the organ which he played in the Bonn church. Four or five of his large brass ear-trumpets, spectacles, chairs and many portraits and pictures may be seen. Of greatest interest are the original manuscripts of the 9th Symphony, the Pastoral Symphony, The Moonlight Sonata, parts of "Fidelio" and others.

We climbed the rickety stairs to Beethoven's birth chamber in the low-ceilinged garret room. Only the Master's bust is there. Yet the room, so plain and bare, is a shrine. An immortal soul here first saw the light of day. Our guide showed us a portrait of Beethoven painted in 1812 by Ferdinand Schimon. This picture Beethoven felt was his best likeness. It gives a happier impression of the great composer than most of the pictures do.

Cologne was the last city we visited in Germany. It will be associated in my mind always as the location of the most beautiful



Cathedral I have ever seen—the Kolner Dom. The building seems perfect in every way. The great organ is wonderful, its tone so rich and full and big as to be almost overpowering. We attended Sunday morning mass—the congregation overflowed into the aisles; the place was crowded. There was no choir but the singing of the old hymns by the vast congregation was thrilling.

The last ten days of our pilgrimage we spent in England. At the Lausanne Conference we had heard much regarding the English composers and their work and especially about the British composers of today (Vaughan Williams, Frank Bridge, Holst, Frederick Delias and others).

This stimulated our interest in things musical in England; and we were not disappointed in what we found there. The British Broadcasting Corporation is doing a fine thing in putting on the air what they call the Promenade Concerts. Since the concerts feature not only the standard orchestral works but also the works of contemporary composers, one can begin to realize what a great service musically, the Broadcasting Corporation is rendering.

We attended five of these promenade concerts. The orchestra of 100 players under the capable direction of Sir Henry Wood played exceedingly well. The concerts are held in Queen's Hall every night except Sunday at 8:00 o'clock.

The programs of these concerts are not usually the "miscellaneous" types so often found in our country. They are units, as may be seen from their designations. "Bach and Handel Concert," "Wagner Concert," "Mozart and Schubert Concert," "British Composers Concert," etc. The Bach, Beethoven and Wagner nights were jammed.

The first concert we attended was devoted to Beethoven. The program included the Leonora Overture No. I; two Arias from "Fidelio"; Concerto No. 2 in B Flat for piano and orchestra; Two songs ("In Questa Tomba" and "Earlkonig") with orchestral accompaniment; and the Symphony No. 2 in D. At the close of the program, the orchestra played, —Frank Bridges Suite entitled "The Sea." It is written in four scenes; I Seascape, II Sea foam; III Moonlight, IV Storm. The printed concert programs contain copious program notes and articles on musical subjects such as "A Propos of Rolland's Beethoven," "The String Family," "Contemporary English Music," etc.

We spent a most interesting day at the Canterbury Cathedral Festival making our pilgrimage to this mediaeval shrine in a modern motor-bus. This Festival of Music and Drama lasted through the entire week. We went on Thursday because the big event for that day was a choral concert to be given in the nave of the cathedral. On arriving in the quaint old city, I found that the Kent Festival Chorus and orchestra were to rehearse in the Cathedral at four o'clock in the afternoon. I was very happy to be allowed to attend this, the final rehearsal. The Festival Chorus was made up of groups from Canterbury, Herne Bay, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. About 50 members from the London Symphony did the accompanying. The Chorus rehearsed the cantata "Sleepers Awake" (Bach) and Parry's Ode "Blest Pair of Sirens." The participating choral groups had been trained by their several conductors and were welded together under the direction of the Festival Conductor, Sir Adrian Boult.

The large chorus of over two hundred voices sang well, the quality of the sopranos was especially beautiful, the diction was excellent and there was a fine balance of parts. The singers seemed so joyous and happy in their singing—there was a fine feeling between the Chorus and Conductor, and he conducted them with skill and discretion. Looking at it and hearing it from a school-masters point of view—I considered it a fine "Observation lesson."

On Sunday we attended church at Westminster Abbey and we were fortunate enough to be seated in the Choir Stalls where we could watch the workings of the Choir. The Choir that morning included twenty two boys and twelve men. Except for the hymns and the anthem the service was sung a cappella. The music service was quite difficult. The choir knew it well, but the singing was not particularly good. This was especially true of the soprano boys. We had gone first to the Temple Church, hoping to hear Dr. Bullock's Choir, which was supposed to be the best in London, but the Church was closed until October.

In a few days we were again aboard ship, our interesting, at times thrilling, pilgrimage at an end. We felt ourselves richer and happier



because of our experiences, yet we were not sorry to be westward bound. For the wide world over, "There is no sweeter place than Home."

#### CINCINNATI, OHIO

After living in one place for nine years it was not easy to "pull up stakes" and move to another. However, the offer came from Cincinnati (Ohio). It was a larger city, a larger salary and an opportunity to live and work in the most musical city in the Middle West. I accepted the position as director of music in the public schools and we moved from Indianapolis to Cincinnati. Through a newspaper advertisement we traded our Indianapolis home for a very comfortable house in Clifton, which was the desirable residential section of Cincinnati.

This city, with two fine music schools, the University, the Annual May Music Festivals, the Symphony Orchestra, the Art Museums, fine concert courses and schools (both private and public) have through the years built up a culture and society that is quite unique. It is far enough South so there is that something we Northerners call Southern hospitality. Cincinnati has its traditions and "old families" that have lived on into the present and they still play an important part in the life of the community.

My work in the schools was pleasant and agreeable and very soon after arriving in the city I was invited by Dean Louis A. Peckstein, of the School of Education (University of Cincinnati) to offer music education courses. This I did each year and also during the summer sessions. I became very interested in the Ohio State Teachers Association and was elected a member of the Ohio Educational Council on which board I served for five years.

An assignment from the Council which I carried through was the formulating of an Ohio State Course of Study in Music Education for the first six grades of school. I secured the help of some of the best music educators in the state along with the State Supervisor of Music, Miss Edith M. Keller, and the course was written and published by the State Department in 1935. I was also elected president of the music section of the State Teachers Association and served on their board for some time.

In Cincinnati I organized the In-and-About Cincinnati Music Educators' Club which served as a fine instrument for professional growth. I served as its president during my entire term in Cincinnati. Here, too, I organized a Teachers Chorus and helped with the May Music Festival work and conducted the Walnut Hills M. E. Church choir.

I decided that I needed further study in education and began working for my Masters Degree. For several years I carried a heavy load of studies along with my many other duties and finally received the Degree of Master of Science in Education from the University of Cincinnati. Later I was honored by the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music which conferred on me the honorary degrees of Master of Pedagogy and Doctor of Pedagogy for outstanding service in the field of Music Education. Miss Bertha Bauer, director of the Conservatory, and Dr. Edgar Stillman Kelley, conferred the degrees.

While in Cincinnati I found time to judge a number of State Music Contests and served in various capacities for the Music Educator's National Conference. I was a member of the Conference Board of Directors, Chairman of the National Committee on Vocal Affairs and appeared on many of their programs. They were pleasant and happy years both professionally and socially and we still cherish the many friendships formed.

#### NEW YORK CITY

We did not think that we would ever leave Cincinnati for life there was indeed very pleasant. One day, near the close of my sixth year, I received a letter from Dr. John W. Withers, Dean of the School of Education at New York University, stating he would like to have a conference with me in Cincinnati to talk over some music problems. I answered that I should be glad to see him and in a few days he and his wife drove through from New York by automobile.

The outcome of the conference was that he invited me to come to New York University to head the department of music education succeeding Dr. Hollis Dann who was retiring. Here indeed was a great decision to be made. The New York salary was much higher



than Cincinnati, the prestige of the University position and the musical advantages of New York City seemed to outweigh the objections and so I accepted the position.

We moved from Cincinnati to a very nice apartment located at number 35 West Ninth Street just a few blocks from Washington Square in Greenwich Village where our division of the University was located. Here we lived during our sojourn in the metropolis.

Life in New York was very different from anything I had yet experienced. The tempo was much more accelerated both in and out of the University and everything seemed to be very impersonal. There were many things to be done in the department; budgets, new courses, new curriculums, planning for the summer schools, teaching new courses and many new problems that filled my days from dawn to dusk. I initiated a number of things as I got into my stride such as guest teachers and conductors, a new instrumental curriculum, a series of department concerts, a Lowell Mason Scholarship, and an Annual Town Hall Concert. I also planned an annual Spring Music Conference at the University with morning and afternoon sessions. Nationally known musicians and educators appeared on these programs which attracted hundreds of music teachers and supervisors from the metropolitan area.

I assisted the New York City Board of Education in preparing and giving music examinations for applicants in the city schools. I was a member of Metropolitan Opera Guild Committee whose chairman was Mrs. August Belmont, also a member of Dr. Walter Damrosch's Committee for the N.B.C. Music Appreciation Hour and the Columbia School of the Air Committee.

I succeeded Dr. Peter Dykema of Columbia University as president of the New York In-and-About Music Educators Club. For this organization I worked out a fine series of programs which increased the attendance and interest. Our dinner meetings were held at the fine old Hotel Brevoort. I was invited into two social organizations, The Bohemians and the Beethoven Club. I enjoyed their meetings as well as the associations of the members in their varied professional fields. I was elected a member of the National Research Council of the Music Educators National Conference and served in that capacity for five years.

Like many other New Yorkers I had a growing feeling that I should like to have a little farm in the country. So we started looking around in Connecticut going up that way a number of week-ends trying to find the right spot. However, the traffic problem seemed so difficult that we gave it up and decided to look around in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Many New York people had found farms in that area and so we started. We spent many week-ends driving around with real estate dealers inspecting old Pennsylvania Dutch stone farmhouses. Finally we found our hearts' desire. A fine old stone house located on a beautiful hillside overlooking Doylestown, the county seat of Bucks County. We bought the farm and for many months experienced the pleasure that goes with restoring and furnishing an old house. "Fairfields," (the name we gave to our farm) was located about seventy-five miles from New York and through the Holland tunnel and over the fine highway we could drive to it in about two hours. We were able to spend nearly all of our week-ends at the farm. This was a great relaxation and relief after the busy days in the City. Ethel would spend the entire summer there and I would arrive for week-ends and at the close of summer school for my vacation.

The entrance of our Country into the Second World War took its toll on the student enrollments of colleges and universities throughout the land. New York University was no exception. Our school lost many of its students, especially the young men. On account of New York University depending very largely on student tuition fees for its maintenance the decreased enrollment worked considerable hardship on its faculty members. It was necessary to retrench in every possible way.

#### BALTIMORE AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

It was just at this time that I received a very interesting invitation from the Superintendent of the Baltimore (Maryland) Public Schools inviting me to come to Baltimore as director of Music for that very forward-looking school system. It was made doubly attractive by the fact that a considerable grant of money had been given to the Baltimore schools by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the development of music education. This Carnegie Grant was given for a period of three years and made possible the initiating



of new types of music instruction and the administering and planning of a special High School music curriculum. I accepted the Superintendent's invitation and in February, 1942, moved to Baltimore to assume my new duties.

In connection with my duties in the Baltimore schools, I was also invited to give music courses for teachers in Peabody Conservatory of Music and Johns Hopkins University which I accepted. The planning of the new music programs for the public schools proved to be very interesting, as well as rewarding. The compensation from the personal standpoint was that of seeing plans develop and children benefiting from the musical advantages offered.

It was war-time when we moved to Baltimore and the housing situation was serious. However, through friends, we were able to secure a lovely apartment in the Roland Park Apartments. This section of the city is very beautiful and our apartment house on a wooded hill overlooking the Baltimore Country Club was most attractive. We joined the Roland Park Presbyterian Church and became identified with the life of the community. Ethel became interested in the Presbyterian Hospitality House (for Servicemen) and gave considerable time and thought to its operation. She was elected Vice-President of the Ladies Aid Society and I was elected an Elder of the Church in 1944. I was also elected President of the National Capitol-In-and-About Music Educator's Club and this gave me an opportunity to work on music programs in this area and become better acquainted with the music people of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. I joined the Baltimore Rotary Club and also the Baltimore Educational Society and Ethel was on the Executive Board of the Baltimore Music Club.

So in the midst of war we carried on the duties of the day, but with a more sober mind and with only one thought uppermost, that of winning the war against Germany and Japan. It was during these Baltimore war years that our two sons enlisted in the service of their country, Sgt. James Martin Hesser (8) in the Army, and Lt. Ernest Grant Hesser (8) in the Navy.

It was in September, 1942, at the opening of the school year that our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David E. Weglein, called a meeting of all Directors and Supervisors and announced that as far as

possible the school program for the coming year would be geared to help in the war effort. With that thought in mind, I directed all teachers of music to work and contribute in every possible way in helping to win the war through the power of music. We discussed various ways of stimulating morale and of carrying on the many "drives" initiated by our Government. Music is a power that can stir the soul, arouse patriotism and restore confidence.

The following are some of the music activities which we stressed in the schools:

1. Wartime assemblies—"Victory Assemblies" and "Victory Sings." Use of patriotic songs and band and orchestra material.
2. Music's contribution to parent-teacher meetings, community groups and the U. S. O. Help through leadership and choice of music. "Music is the Handmaiden of Morale."
3. Outdoor flag-raisings and parades. Stress the use of drum corps and bands. (Use of military marches)
4. Stress the music of our country and our allies on programs. Use both vocal and instrumental selections.
5. Commencement music material. Both vocal and instrumental music should sound the patriotic note.
6. Encourage creative song writing. Write songs for bond, stamp, key, and other drives.
7. Radio programs. Encourage pupils and parents to listen in on the various programs sponsored by our government.
8. Our National Anthem—"The Star Spangled Banner." Follow the government bulletin regarding its singing, use, and key.

Your author sent the following thoughts on Music Education in War-time to all of the music teachers in the Baltimore Public Schools:

"It's a fine thing to sing,  
Singing is the thing!  
It brightens everything when dark and dreary.  
It helps you on the road  
When you have a heavy load,  
Singing is the thing to make you cheery."

These words of wisdom are from the heart of that brave, bonny Scotch singer, Harry Lauder. How well he knew! For after the loss of his son in the First World War, with his grief hidden from



his fellow-men, he went about the country courageously singing in concert to help others bear their heavy loads.

Music can and is doing many things in our present crisis to help our beloved America to bear the heavy load; for America means each and all of us, and we must work together to keep up our courage and our steadfastness not for just a day, perhaps even for years. In a word, it is the duty of all music teachers to keep high our morale and to guard against anything in our thoughts or actions which might cause that morale to crumble. Therefore, we must seek to keep vigorously alive those activities which contribute to high standards of living and thinking and feeling.

First among such wholesome activities are group singing and playing. Military and naval authorities have long since known this and, in consequence, every training camp and naval station has its band or orchestra or both, and its regular "sings." These musical activities afford an escape and an emotional release; engender cheerfulness, good comradeship, cooperation; release and rest both mind and body; stimulate fidelity and patriotism; and deepen faith.

What music is doing for the soldier and the sailor it does also for boys and girls. Who that has sung in a large group has not felt the warmth of fellowship and good-will created there? Which of you, in singing, has not forgotten the "cares that infest the day"? Who has not felt the thrill which comes from singing with others songs of human appeal? And after it was all over and we had gone each to his own home, which of us has not felt in consequence greater courage and faith and peace? You have, and so have I. The power of music is uplifting and healing for music is the handmaid of morale. Realizing this, cities all over the United States have organized and are organizing "Victory Sings."

In thinking of the role of music in wartime we must not neglect to evaluate what the public schools are doing and must continue to do, musically, in an ever-widening scope for the sake of the Nation's morale. Our boys and girls are there receiving a liberal music education free of charge. In the elementary schools they have the enjoyable and stimulating experience of group singing. Many of them play in the school orchestras. Through the music appreciation lessons they become familiar with the compositions of the masters. High school students have greater opportunities. They may play in

large orchestras and bands, many of symphonic proportions; sing in choruses or sing in smaller selective groups. Daily they come under the potent spell of music. We know how very much this means in their formative years and what it will mean for the morale of the future. Indeed, public school music stands in the first rank of those educational factors which promote morale.

I would call special attention to the plans of various Federal agencies with which the Music Educators National Conference, a department of the National Education Association is cooperating. Ten of these agencies, including the War Department, the Treasury Department, and other branches have set up school and community projects to which the Music Educators National Conference has pledged its assistance. Among these projects is the "High School Hour" radio program sponsored by the National Education Association and the Association of Education by Radio which provides opportunity for all pupils in all of the high schools in the United States to take part each week in a nation-wide "sing." Then there is the "I Hear America Singing" program under the direction of the Federal Security Agency. Pupils and parents should become members of the air audience when these important agencies present information relative to national wartime issues.

The Music Educators National Conference is also cooperating with the Department of State and the Pan-American Union in their "American Unity Through Music" project. *American* is here used in the larger sense, meaning the twenty sister republics of the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of the project is to encourage, develop, and cement inter-American "Understanding and solidarity and hemispheric unity." By acquainting the boys and girls of the United States with the music of our sister republics a decided step forward is taken toward mutual understanding.

One of the benefits which grows out of a social crisis such as war is that it forces us back to fundamentals, to permanent values. So, with transportation curtailed, friends and amusements not so easy of access, the home is again being seen in its true light. Singing and playing in the family circle, in consequence, are steadily gaining in popularity. With the acute shortage of materials for making musical instruments, blessed is the family which possess a piano or



an organ or any other music instrument. Fortunate indeed are those young people who are privileged to take instrumental or vocal instruction, an asset to them now and in the days of coming peace as well.

Not only in the homes and in the schools should there be music but every club session should begin with the singing of our National Anthem and include music as an integral part of the program. And let us not forget the value of music in our churches. America is fighting to preserve spiritual values for us and our children. Even as the war is forcing us back to the true conception of home, so likewise it is awakening us to a deeper appreciation of the church, the bulwark of spiritual values. We need, as never before, the "faith of our fathers, known of old," their patriotic fervor and willingness to sacrifice, and their assurance that right makes might. Music is the power that can stir the soul, arouse patriotism, restore confidence.

In the fall of 1943 our superintendent of schools asked all departments to prepare a report on their various fields, outlining work to be accomplished during the remainder of the war and also for the post-war period. With that thought in mind, I prepared a list of "Suggestions for Teachers" dealing with the subject of music education. The objectives were made under ten different heads, as follows:

1. Interpret for the pupils the relationship between democracy and music.
2. Acquaint children with the American Musician's contribution to the democratic way of life.
3. Develop with pupils the conception of music as an important part of life.
4. Music can be regarded as a "Universal Language."
5. Through music we may be appreciative of the accomplishments of other peoples.
6. The music course may promote good will among nations.
7. Make use of music as a vehicle for self-expression of personal convictions and feelings relating to planning for the peace and the transition period.
8. Encourage children to conserve natural and artistic resources.
9. Undertake and carry to completion creative activities.
10. Music knowledge for the "consumer" of the radio, the phonograph and all music products.

A summary of all of the varied war music activities carried on in the Baltimore public schools was reported to the Executive Secretary of the Music War Council of America and they, in turn, complimented our Music Department very highly for our service in aiding in the war effort and awarded us the Distinguished Service Citation. On the evening of June 10, 1944, in Eastern High School at the time of our Spring Music Festival the citation was presented by Col. Harry M. Gwynn of the United States Army to Dr. David E. Weglein, Superintendent, Baltimore Public Schools, and reads

“Music War Council of America”

“Minute Men of Music”

“For distinguished service to our country through the patriotic and inspiring use of music to aid the national effort, this citation is awarded to the Division of Music Education, Baltimore Public Schools, Ernest G. Hesser, Director, Baltimore, Maryland, dated at Chicago, this 12th day of May, 1944.”

Signed Howard C. Fischer

Administrative Secretary

Max Targ, President

Your author was also appointed a delegate to the War Emergency Council meeting held in New York City in the spring of 1945. This meeting convened for three days in Hotel Pennsylvania and was called by the Music Educator's National Conference to plan for ways and means of carrying on music education in wartime. This organization was working in conjunction with the National Education Association and our government.

*Issue:*

232. JAMES MARTIN HESSER (8), b. July 30, 1909, Crestline, Ohio; m. Helen Anne Rupp, Aug. 19, 1939, at Akron, Pa.

233. ERNEST GRANT HESSER (8), b. Jan. 11, 1919, Bowling Green, Ohio; m. Sept. 22, 1944 to Elizabeth Maescher in St. Andrews Chapel, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

232. SGT. JAMES MARTIN HESSER (8), son of George Ernest (7) and Ethel Martin-Hesser, b. July 30, 1919 in Crestline, Ohio; m. Helen Anne Rupp, Aug. 19, 1939 at Akron, Pa. She was the daughter of Ludwig and Charlotte Hirsch Rupp.



James Martin Hesser (8), graduated from Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, Indiana and received his A.B. and Bach. of Music degrees from Ohio Wesleyan University and M.A. degree from New York University. As a music educator he has taught and supervised public school music in Hamilton, Ohio, Niagara Falls, N. Y. and at the West Liberty State Teachers College, West Liberty, West Virginia.

He enlisted in the U. S. Army during the second World War in the Personnel Dept., and has served his country well.

Residence Charlotte, North Carolina.

*Issue:*

234 JAMES CRAIG HESSER (9), b. March 10, 1942

233 LIEUT. ERNEST GRANT HESSER (8), son of George Ernest (7) and Ethel Martin-Hesser, b. January 11, 1919 in Bowling Green, Ohio; m. Elizabeth Maescher, Sept. 22, 1944 in St. Andrews Chapel, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. She is the daughter of John Victor and Lucy Frank Maescher of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ernest Grant Hesser (8) graduated from Friends High School, New York City and received his A.B. degree from Dartmouth College. He received his college degree in June 1941 and immediately enlisted in the service of his country going into the U. S. Naval Officers Reserve Training Corps in New York City. He served his country well throughout the 2nd World War as a Communications Officer on the destroyers Bristol and Charles J. Badger and the cruiser Montpelier.

He took part in such engagements as the Casablanca landing (Africa), the Aleutians, Okinawa, Leyte, islands of the Pacific and Japan, serving both in the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns.

Residence: Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Issue:*

233½. GRANT VICTOR HESSER (9), b. June 11, 1947.

230. FRED GARBERICH HESSER (7), son of George Gaylord Hesser (6) and Mary Ellen Garberich-Hesser, born Aug. 19, 1884, Crestline, Ohio; married Grace Lashels 1907; res. Pearl Street, Crestline, Ohio.

Fred (7) was born in Crestline and it has been his home throughout his life. He received his early education in the Crestline public schools and then entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He served his apprenticeship and became a master machinist and foreman in the railroad shops, serving in many important capacities. In 1907 he married Grace Lashels of Crestline. A happy and united family grew up in the home which was beautified by her taste and enhanced by her social graces.

Fred (7) has a combination of qualities that have especially distinguished him among his fellow townsmen and co-workers; first, as a conscientious Christian man; second, as a man of unfailing courtesy of demeanor; third, as a just civic-minded citizen; fourth as possessing a genius for mechanics and craftsmanship; fifth, as a citizen, who would prefer a sacrifice of his personal interest rather than the least injustice to anyone; sixth, as a most affectionate husband and indulgent father. For over half a century in the region of Crawford County, Ohio, where he lives, he is universally regarded as an honest, civic-minded man, above all reproach.

“Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever, things are of good report”: he has thought of these things, and regulates his conduct by them and seeks the society of those who possess them, whatever might be their station in life. On account of the splendid qualities enumerated above he has been chosen to serve on many church and civic committees in Crestline in which he has shown judgment and leadership. He has been a member of the Official Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years and has served for a number of years on the Board of Education (President for many years), is also a member of the Board of the Railway Y. M. C. A. He has on many occasions been sent as a delegate to Methodist Conferences and Railway meetings.

He inherited that musical trait which we find running all through the Hesser family. He has a beautiful singing voice and has done a great deal of solo, quartet and choir singing, appearing in many important musical events throughout the state. It should also be added that his wife is an accomplished musician and has on many



occasions assisted him vocally and by accompanying him at the piano. His children (Winifred (8), Gaylord (8), Grace (8) are all very musical and enjoy music as an avocation.

He has contributed a great deal to the betterment of the community in which he lives by devoting of his time, and energy, and talents, without receiving or asking the slightest reward.

Both he and his family have shown unswerving loyalty to the church of their choice and zeal in the cause of bettering humanity through integrity and uprightness of character and citizenship.

*Issue:*

235. WINIFRED HESSER (8), b. June 12, 1908; m. 1934, Herbert Leicy; issue—Linda Clare Leicy (9), b. Oct. 28, 1938; res. Stubenville, Ohio.

236. GAYLORD HESSER (8), b. Feb. 2, 1912; m. 1938 Thelma Herschner; issue—Sharon Lynn Hesser (9), b. May 8, 1941; res. Cleveland, Ohio.

237. GRACE CLARK HESSER (8), b. Dec. 21, 1922; res. Chicago, Ill.; m. 1945 George E. Figel; issue—Grace Elizabeth Figel (9), b. July 28, 1947.

231. SARAH NELLIE HESSER (7) daughter of George Gaylord Hesser (6) and Mary Ellen Garberich-Hesser, b. June 24, 1887, Crestline, Ohio; m. Albert F. Hartman, 1916; res. 808 Lombard Avenue, Evansville, Indiana.

Nellie (7) graduated from the Crestline, Ohio public schools and also from the Conservatory of Music, University of Wooster. As a child she showed considerable talent for music and took up the study of the piano and organ. She attained a high degree of artistry and skill in both instruments and has given many concerts and recitals. She also prepared herself to teach in the public schools and for a number of years before her marriage was a teacher of penmanship and art in the Geneva, Ohio, public schools.

After her marriage some of her music and teaching activities were curtailed because she has now raised a family of three beautiful and efficient daughters. She, however, has continued her organ playing and is at present organist and choir director of the First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana.

In 1944, a great sorrow befell her in the death of her beloved husband, Albert F. Hartman. At present she is attending Evansville College and is working for an academic degree.

Nellie (7) is a woman of many talents and accomplishments. An artist of note, a devoted wife and mother, a charming and gracious hostess, and a beautiful christian character. Her artistic home is a happy meeting place for her devoted daughters, relatives, and friends.  
*Issue:*

MARY ELLEN HARTMAN (8), b. May 17, 1917; m. Lt. Robert Kyle.  
*Issue:* Nancy Diane (9), b. Nov. 23, 1946.

MARTHA ALLEN HARTMAN (8), b. May 27, 1920; m. Lt. Robert Strawbridge  
*Issue:* Robert Albert (9), b. Jan. 10, 1944; David James (9), b. June 25, 1945.

BETTY GRANT HARTMAN (8), b. Feb. 1, 1922, res. Evansville, Indiana.

228. ELIZABETH ROBERTA HESSER (6), born May 27, 1868 in Crestline, Ohio, daughter of Langton Peter Hesser (5) and Rachel Sherwood Grant-Hesser; married June 15, 1898 in Crestline, Ohio to William Burton Morton; d. May 10, 1935; buried Crestline Cemetery.

Elizabeth Roberta (Aunt Berta, so called by her nieces and nephews) lived her entire life in the home town, Crestline, Ohio, among her many friends, relatives, and her family. She early embraced the religion of Jesus Christ and during her entire life, was a consistent and exemplary member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Crestline, Ohio. Here in this church she served faithfully as organist for many years, thus carrying on the musical tradition of the Hesser family. In the declining years of her father and mother she gave unstintingly of her time in caring for them until they died. They both died in her home.

She was a fine example of conscientious fidelity in all the duties and relations of life. Her connections and friends, all "praise her in the gates" and "her children rise up and call her blessed." Her piety was not a mere Sabbath dress, but the daily dress of the soul, uniform, consistent, and beautiful. She believed in the efficacy of prayer and by her presence and cooperation helped sustain the various organizations of the church.

*Issue:*

MINERVA ISABELLE MORTON (7); b. Feb. 12, 1903, Crestline, Ohio; a teacher in the Crestline Public Schools.

WILLIAM LESTER MORTON (7); b. Oct. 30, 1904, Crestline, Ohio; m. Alice V. Vandervort 1933; res. Portsmouth, Ohio.



*Issue:* Alice Joanne (8), b. Oct. 18, 1936; Roberta Jean (8), b. April 23, 1941; James Williams (8), b. June 9, 1943.

GLENN EUGENE MORTON (7); b. June 21, 1906; d. Jan. 9, 1934.

14. ISAAC HESSER (3), b. —; son of Frederick (2), saddler and Catharine Doll-Hesser. He married Mary: your author, to date, has been unable to locate the movements of Isaac (3). He was remembered in his Uncle George Nicholas Hesser's (2) will, so evidently he was a favorite. As some of the Hessers moved south into Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, he may have gone into Maryland. We find the following George (4) in Maryland—circumstances point to his being a son of Isaac and we are so placing him.

*Issue:*

238. GEORGE (4), b. Oct. 13, 1804, possibly in Creagerstown, Frederick County, Maryland; m. Dec. 17, 1829 to Amy Knauff, d. Nov. 28, 1886 at Graceham, Md.

239. JOHN (4), b. 1812, no further information.

238. GEORGE HESSER (4), b. Oct. 13, 1804 in Maryland (according to 1850 U. S. census report from Frederick County, Md.); m. Dec. 17, 1829 to Amy Knauff, daughter of John and Katherine Knauff. She was born Sept. 5, 1804 and died Feb. 20, 1864 and was buried in Graceham, Md., Feb. 22, 1864; George (Sr.) lived in Creagerstown, Md., until about 1838 when he moved to Graceham, Md., where he and his wife Amy united with the Graceham Moravian Church. He was a skilled blacksmith by trade. It is recorded in the Graceham Moravian Church record that on Whit-Monday, June 4th, 1865 George (Sr.) was elected a Trustee of the congregation. He was re-elected to the same office again on Whit-Monday, May, 1866. He died Nov. 28, 1886, aged 82 years, one month and 15 days. He is buried in Graceham cemetery.

*Issue:*

240. HANNAH CATHARINE (5), b. Creagerstown, Md., Dec. 29, 1830; bap. Feb. 21, 1831 (no further record)

241. SUSAN REBECCA (5), b. Creagerstown, Md., Jan. 28, 1833; bap. March 29, 1833; m. John Troxell (no further record)

242. EMILY SOPHIA (5), b. Creagerstown, Md., Aug. 7, 1835; confirmed in Lutheran Church, Dec. 31, 1854; united with Graceham Moravian church, Jan. 1st, 1855; d. Jan. 25, 1858; bur. Graceham, Jan. 26, 1858.

243. GEORGE JACOB (5), b. Creagerstown, Md., Dec. 6, 1838; m. Dec. 30, 1860 to Eliza Susan Newman; d. Oct. 27, 1908; res. Graceham, Md.

244. MARY ISABEL (5), b. July 9, 1841; m. John Tilghman Colliflower at Graceham, Md., Dec. 13, 1863; a lifelong member of the Graceham Moravian Church; d. Jan. 10, 1913; bur. Graceham, Jan. 13, 1913.

245. LILLY ANN (5), b. Graceham, Md., Aug. 29, 1846; m. Samuel Newcomer, Reformed Church, Nov. 7, 1867; d. Graceham, Dec. 16, 1919 and buried in Graceham Dec. 18, 1919.

243. GEORGE JACOB HESSER (5), only son of above George (4) and Amy Knauff Hesser, b. Dec. 6th, 1838, Creagerstown, Md.; when the family moved from Creagerstown to Graceham, Md., George Jacob was confirmed into the communion of the Graceham Moravian church on May 11, 1856. Like his father before him he was a skilled blacksmith by trade. The old stone "smithy" still stands just opposite the neat little stone Hesser residence in Graceham, although now it is used as a storehouse. On Dec. 30, 1860 George Jacob married Eliza Susan Newman. He spent his entire life in Graceham. His Pastor states that he was a good citizen and a devoted and useful member of his church. Besides minor church activities he served as a Trustee of the congregation during the years 1890 and 1891. In 1892 he was elected an Elder, holding that office continuously from that time until May 1903 when failing health compelled him to relinquish the office. For many years he taught a class of boys in the Sunday School. He died of chronic heart and lung trouble, Oct. 27, 1908, aged 69 years, 10 months and 21 days. His wife, Eliza Susan died in Graceham on Nov. 4, 1912 and was buried beside him in the family lot in Graceham Cemetery on Nov. 6, 1912.

*Issue:*

246. ALLEN JACOB (6), b. Oct. 20, 1861, Graceham, Md.; bapt. June 8, 1862, d. Harrisburg, Pa., Mar. 7, 1899, aged 37 years, 4 months, 15 days; funeral and interment in Graceham, Md., March 12, 1899; no further information.

247. CHARLES MILTON (6), b. May 3, 1863, Graceham, Md.; bapt. May 4, 1863; d. and buried, Graceham, May 5, 1863.

248. GEORGE NEWMAN (6), b. Sept. 15, 1864; bapt. Mar. 5, 1865; d. Mar. 20, 1865; bur. Graceham, Mar. 21, 1865.



249. WILLIAM MELVIN (6), b. Sept. 15, 1866, Graceham, united with Graceham Moravian Church by confirmation, April 2, 1882, a life-long member of the church. Occupation—drover. His first wife Mary Eliza (Wilhide) daughter of Samuel Wilhide, b. April 16, 1870. She died without issue, June 8, 1908, aged 38 years. Interment Graceham cemetery. His second wife whom he married Mar. 17, 1921 and who still survives him is Carrie M. (Buhrman) daughter of the late William and Emily (Harbaugh) Burman. She was born in Foxville, Md., Dec. 5, 1875, and still lives in the old stone house which has sheltered three generations of the Hesser family. William Melvin died without issue on Oct. 29, 1941. He was the last of this branch of the Hesser family. Funeral services were held in the Graceham church, Nov. 1, 1941 and interment made in Graceham cemetery.

250. JESSIE BRUCE (6), b. Sept. 1, 1869; a faithful member of Graceham Moravian Church; she served as a Sunday School teacher for many years. She never married; d. April 8, 1935 and interment in Graceham cemetery Apr. 10, 1935.

15. ABRAHAM HESSER (3), son of Frederick Hesser (2), and Catharine Doll-Hesser, b. about March 28, 1779 and d. Aug. 17, 1847. Married (first wife) Hanna; a tombstone to Hanna, wife of Abraham Hesser, Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, Pa., inscription reads, died Sept. 2, 1806, age 32 years. (Second wife) Judith, was baptized April 10, 1814 in St. Gabriel's Church, Douglassville, Berks County, Pa. This church was originally Swedish Lutheran and later Episcopal. At the time of the Abraham Hesser family's connection it was Episcopal. Abraham (3) possibly left the Trappe, Pa., section after the death of his first wife and moved into Berks County. The records of St. Gabriel's Church contain mention of the rather numerous family. Abraham Hesser (3) and his wife Judith had children baptized beginning in 1812. They then lived in Union Township, which is in Southeastern Berks County, bordering Chester County. By 1818 they were living in Amity Township, northwest of Douglassville. Unity and Amity townships are about twenty miles west of Providence Township, Montgomery County, where Frederick Hesser (2), his father lived. Abraham was on the rolls of the Revolution in Northampton County Militia. The following children are to his second wife, Judith.

*Issue:*

- 251. JACOB (4), b. Sept. 18, 1812; bapt. July 18, 1813
- 252. HARRISON JONES (4), b. Aug. 30, 1815; bap. 1816; d. Sept. 8, 1830
- 253. WILLIAM (4), b. Dec. 28, 1817; bapt. Apr. 5, 1818
- 254. JAMES (4), b. Dec. 23, 1820; bapt. March 25, 1821
- 255. CAROLINE (4), b. Apr. 9, 1822; bapt. Aug. 18, 1822
- 256. FRANCIS (4), b. Feb. 3, 1825; bapt. July 31, 1825.
- 257. HENRY MCKINTY (4), b. Oct. 10, 1827; bapt. — (date blank)
- 258. MARY ANN (4), b. —; m. Apr. 10, 1834 to Samuel Crossley, Amity Township, Berks County, Pa.

To his first wife:

- 259. THOMAS (4), b. 1806; d. 1886
- 259. THOMAS HESSER (4), son of Abraham Hesser (3), b. 1806, d. 1886, Douglassville, Pa.; m. Catherine, (1st wife) to whom seven children were born; four children were born to his second wife.

*Issue:* 1st wife, Catharine—

- 260. ELLEN ANN (5), b. Dec. 25, 1838
- 261. ABRAHAM (5), b. Sept. 24, 1841
- 262. MARY ANN (5), b. Dec. 14, 1843
- 263. CAROLINE (5), b. Dec. 15, 1844
- 264. EDWIN RHAN (5), b. Aug. 9, 1847
- 265. MOLLY (5), b. —
- 266. ELIZA (5), b. —

To his second wife—

- 267. GEORGE RHODES (5), b. Jan. 1865
- 268. JAMES (5)
- 269. THOMAS (5)
- 270 EMMA (5)
- 267. GEORGE RHODES HESSER (5), born January 1865 in Birdsboro, Pa.; res. Covington, Ky.; son of Thomas Hesser (4) of Douglassville, Pa.

*Issue:*

- 271. ARTHUR BENESON (6), b. 1897, Covington, Ky.



## LEONARD HESSER (2)

1739-1807

5. LEONARD HESSER (2), son of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) and Anna Maria Catharina Hofman, b. Jan. 29, 1739, Germantown, Pa.; m. May 5, 1765 to Magdalena Meyer by Michael Schlatter,<sup>1</sup> his Majesty's Chaplain to the 60th Regiment of foot at Chestnut Hill, Pa.; after the death of his brother, John (2), Leonard and his wife conducted the Buck Tavern in Germantown. Leonard served in the Revolutionary War along with his brothers, John (2), Frederick (2), and George Nicholas (2). He and his wife lie buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery in Germantown (Philadelphia, Pa.). Leonard died Aug. 29, 1807.

Leonard (2) was a private, fourth class in the Revolutionary War, 8th Company, 7th Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, for a time, and also in the 2nd class, Capt. Daniel Beck's 8th Company; Oct. 22, 1779, he was listed in the 2nd Class, Capt. Math's Genssel's Company, Col. Math's Hogarth's Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, Germantown.

Leonard (2) served his country well and carried on the fine tradition of the Buck Tavern as its proprietor until his death. Elizabeth Drinker in her Journal refers a number of times to the "Buck" and its hospitality and this was during the years when Leonard and his wife, Magdalena, were managing the famous old Inn. A descendant of Leonard (Miss Elizabeth Hesser, Lebanon, Pa.) has some lovely old Chelsea china, heirlooms, that have come down to her from the Leonard Hesser household. These treasures, in a way, tell us of the charm and graciousness that must have been in evidence in that household at that early day. After Leonard's death, his wife carried on the business of the bakery and the Buck Tavern for many years. At the death of John (2), he willed the Tavern to Leonard's (2) son, George (3).

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<sup>1</sup>Rev. Michael Schlatter (1716-1790), an eminent divine in his day, married both Leonard Hesser (2) and his brother George Nicholas (2). Michael Schlatter was sent to Pennsylvania by the Holland Church to organize the Reformed Church in America. This was effected in 1747 in Philadelphia. Rev. Schlatter organized the Reformed Congregations of Germantown and Philadelphia into one group in 1746. He served in a ministerial way in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia; chaplain in the French and Indian Wars, also for the British and later in the Revolutionary War. With the arrival of Rev. Schlatter, the Reformed Church grew and flourished under his able leadership.

*Issue: all born in Germantown.*

- 272. LEONARD (3), b. Oct. 18, 1765; d. Sept. 29, 1767
- 273. JOHANNES (3), b. Nov. 6, 1769; d. Aug. 12, 1775
- 274. ANNA MARIA (3), b. June 26, 1772; d. May 11, 1774
- 275. GEORGE (3), b. Jan. 28, 1776; d. Aug. 21, 1814. He never married; no issue; his Uncle John (2) willed the Buck Tavern to him.
- 276. JACOB (3), b. Apr. 4, 1779; d. Nov. 22, 1822
- 277. SARAH (3), b. 1782; d. 1812

References:

Biographical references for the above will be found in this book—see Chapter on the Buck Tavern.

The Revolutionary War Records for Leonard are referred to in this book—see also the Pennsylvania Archives.

See St. Michael Lutheran Church Records.

See Philadelphia Will Book (John's (2) Will)

276. JACOB HESSER (3), son of Leonard Hesser (2) and Magdalena Meyer-Hesser, born April 4, 1779, Germantown, Pa.; he was a hatter and was married to Ann Brooker, February 5, 1815 by John C. Baker, Minister of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, Pa. He died Nov. 22, 1822; both he and his wife are buried in St. Michael's cemetery. Ann (Nancy) Brooker was one of the first school teachers in Mt. Airy—she taught in the Franklinville School, northeast corner Germantown Avenue and Phil-Ellena Street. Ann died April 8, 1882, aged 92 years. A beautiful tombstone marks her grave in St. Michael's Cemetery in Germantown, Pa.

*Issue:*

- 278. MARTHA ANN (4), b. Nov. 28, 1821; d. March 1, 1886. Buried in St. Michael's Cemetery where a beautiful stone marks her grave.
- 279. JOHN (4), b. Feb. 27, 1817; d. Feb. 24, 1871
- 280. CHARLES BROOKER (4), b. Oct. 5, 1819; d. Dec. 23, 1891

279. JOHN HESSER (4), b. 1817; d. 1871; res. Philadelphia, Pa.

*Issue:*

- 281. CHARLES (5)
- 282. ANNA (5)
- 283. MARY (5), m. Mr. Hinkle
- 284. ELLA (5)



280. CHARLES BROOKER HESSER (4), b. Oct. 5, 1819; d. Dec. 23, 1891; m. Hannah Furey by Rev. R. M. Greenbant, Methodist minister, Philadelphia; b. May 16, 1819; d. April 18, 1891; res. Germantown, Pennsylvania.

*Issue:*

- 285. MARTHA (5), died in infancy
- 286. LOUISA (5), b. Oct. 26, 1844; d. April 27, 1927; m. George Drakeley. Issue: Enos, Charles, Hannah, Martha (Mrs. Bibler of Germantown)
- 287. JOHN WESLEY (5), b. 1845; d. May 23, 1903; res. Philadelphia, Pa.
- 288. ENOS FUREY (5), b. 1849; d. March 17, 1877; res. Philadelphia, Pa.
- 289. GEORGE WASHINGTON (5), b. July 19, 1856; residence, Presbyterian Home, Philadelphia, Pa.

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287. JOHN WESLEY (5), son of Charles Brooker Hesser (4) and Hannah Furey-Hesser, b. 1845; d. May 23, 1903; Philadelphia, Pa.

*Issue:*

- 290. AMANDA (6)
- 291. VERNON (6), b. —, d. 1918

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288. ENOS FUREY HESSER (5), son of Charles Brooker Hesser (4) and Hannah Furey-Hesser, b. —; d. 1877; res. Philadelphia, Pa.

*Issue:*

- 292. MARY (6)
- 293. ENOS (6)

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289. GEORGE WASHINGTON HESSER (5), son of Charles Brooker Hesser (4) and Hannah Furey-Hesser, b. July 19, 1856; res. Philadelphia, Pa.; at present living at the Presbyterian Home in that city; m. (1) Sallie Smith and (2) Matilda Wallace; occupation, carpenter.

*Issue:*

- 294. SADIE (6), b. June 23, 1881; m. Samuel Yake; res. Paoli, Pa.
- 295. FLORENCE (6), b. March 28, 1883; m. Elery L. Smith; res. Greensboro, N. C.
- 296. ELIZABETH WALLACE (6), b. August 4, 1888; never married; res. Lebanon, Pa.
- 297. CLARA S. (6), b. March 1, 1891; m. David Lawson; res. Philadelphia, Pa.

## GEORGE NICHOLAS HESSER (2)

1747-1804

Germantown, Pa.

In the Philadelphia Record of November 16, 1906, appears a picture of the old historic Bayard House and an article describing it, and also telling of its removal. The article states that the ivy-clad stone mansion of thirty-five rooms at number 6747, Main Street (now Germantown Avenue) together with its greenhouses, stables, etc., is being removed to make way for the new Mt. Airy City street car barns. It speaks of the beautiful old house with its solid wooden colonial shutters gracing the interior of the house and the old-fashioned stairways ascending through the three stories. It stated that the handsome stair bannister in the hall was secured by one of the members of the Bayard family and placed in one of their homes. Well, this was the beautiful old home that George Nicholas Hesser (2) built for his family about 1777 during the Revolutionary War period, and where he died, October 14, 1804. This fine old house was built of stone, as was the custom of the better homes of that period. The interior wood-work trim was all of oak as was the lath used throughout the house.

The main part of the house faced Germantown Avenue, with a large three-story wing to the rear. Beautiful dormer windows faced the front and the twelve-pane windows had exterior shutters.

In this connection I should like to quote from a history of Philadelphia, published in 1889, it reads as follows:

<sup>1</sup>"The Bayard House, at No. 5519 Main Street, (later numbered 6747) is a long stone mansion opposite the Carpenter property. The Bayards, who are relatives of the Bayards of Delaware, one of whom is now a cabinet officer, bought this property from Marshal Slocum, who purchased it of John Johnson, who bought it of George Hesser, who built the pleasant old house just after the battle of Germantown. He had dug the cellar before the battle, but as there was a sharp skirmish around the spot and several were killed, they placed the dead in the newly dug cellar and filled it up as a general grave. This was about where the carriage gate now stands.

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<sup>1</sup>Book—Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill, by Rev. S. F. Hotchkin, P. 255  
Pub. 1889





GEORGE NICHOLAS HESSER (2) AND WIFE CATHARINE

This pair of silhouettes of George Nicholas and Catharine were made when they took their wedding journey on horseback in 1775. The originals are in the possession of a great great granddaughter, Doctor Lydia Baker Pierce of Westborough, Mass.

Mr. Hesser's son, then an old man, gave this account to the Bayards some twenty-five or thirty years ago, when he came east from his home in Minnesota on a visit and called to see the ancestral place. The barn has the date 1777 upon it. I am indebted to C. M. Bayard, the present occupant of the house, for its history."

George Nicholas Hesser (2) the fourth son of Johann Frederick Hesser (1) and Catharina Hofman-Hesser, his wife, was born May 7th, 1747, in Germantown, Pa., and died November 17, 1804 in Germantown (Philadelphia) and lies buried in St. Michaels Lutheran Cemetery on Germantown Ave., Philadelphia. His tombstone along with others of his family marks his grave.

George Nicholas Hesser (2) (Known as George Hesser) was a successful, enterprising, business man in his day. He was a skindresser (tanner) by trade and was also a manufacturer of beaver hats. The fur hat business was carried on extensively in Germantown about 1800, but the introduction of silk hats a little later drove the manufacturers out of business. "George Hesser was a collector for forfeited estates in Philadelphia County, 1780." He, too, evidently used his large beautiful stone residence as an inn or private boarding house on occasions. The following information verifies the above statement. <sup>3</sup>"On the corner of Phil-Ellena Street (Church St.) is an old building that at one time was a famous inn. During the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia (1793) many people came to Germantown and all the inns and boarding houses were filled. This place was kept by George Hesser, and it was here that Elizabeth Drinker and her family stopped. She wrote part of her interesting Journal here. Part of the building was cut away in widening the street and in doing so they destroyed some interesting figures over the windows. Two of them were heads of children, one was crying and the other was laughing. Nearly opposite stood the famous Buck Hotel. It was torn down when they opened West Phil-Ellena Street."

George Hesser (2) in renting his house to guests was discriminating and careful in the selection of the same. During the terrible yellow fever epidemic of 1793 he had his house filled with people who had left Philadelphia coming out to the higher ground and better, clearer atmosphere of Germantown to escape the scourge. Among

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<sup>3</sup>Penna-German Society Magazine. Vol. XV, Pub. 1906, Lancaster, Pa.

<sup>4</sup>Pa. Ar. 6th Ser., Vol. XIII, P. 437





### THE GEORGE NICHOLAS HESSER HOUSE

This fine old stone residence of George Nicholas Hesser (2) was built by him during or immediately following the Revolutionary War on Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Pennsylvania. It was later known as the Bayard House and was torn down about 1900 to make way for the Mount Airy Street car barns in Philadelphia.

the people lodging with him were Henry Drinker, a Friend (a Quaker) and a prominent Philadelphia shipping merchant with his wife, Elizabeth, and family. Elizabeth Drinker kept a journal or diary of the everyday happenings of that period and the document<sup>1</sup> (which was later published) throws some light on the George Hesser (2) household.

All of Elizabeth Drinker's Journal that was written in George Hesser's house, that eventful summer and fall of 1793, has been used in Charles F. Jenkins delightful book, "Washington in Germantown," which was published in 1905. This very artistic book also contains a fine picture of George Hesser's (2) House at number 6749 Main Street in Germantown. The writer is fortunate in possessing a copy of this charming book. I am quoting the following extracts from the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker which were written in George Hesser's (2) house:

1793

July 8. Second Day. Came to Germantown with James Pemberton and H. Drinker; stopped at John Salterbac's, where Hannah Pemberton has taken lodgings for the warm season. Drank tea there, came after tea to George Hesser's, near 8 miles from Philadelphia, where Nancy Skyrin<sup>2</sup> has taken up her abode with her daughter for ye summer. Met Sally Emlen and Huldah Mott there; they reside at one Snider's half a mile from Nancy, nearer ye City.

July 17th. Molly and myself went after breakfast to Jacob Spicer's; they live at Mount Airy (the place) formerly belonging to William Allen; about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from G. Hessers. John Skyrin came in ye afternoon—He went with Nancy and Molly to visit Nancy Morgan and Anne Wells, who are at one Becks in Germantown.

July 20. Nancy, Molly, and Betsy Emlen went to ye Rose to hear Musick.

July 26. I paid a visit to Betty Flew, an old lone woman near Hessers, who took me into her Garden, and amused me with as much of her History, as I had time to hear.

July 30. Polly Perot and Christopher Marshall, Jr. here this morning. Nancy and myself took a walk to a Frog-pond this afternoon.

Aug. 18. First day. 'Tis seldom any one of ye Family comes to stay a night with us, but they bring an account of the death of one or more of our citizens.

<sup>1</sup>Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, edited by Henry D. Biddle, Phila. 1889 Publisher.

<sup>2</sup>Nancy Skyrin, was a daughter, and the wife of John Skyrin. She uses throughout the diary abbreviations such as N. S. and J. S. Other Drinker children were Sarah sometimes called "Sallie" who was the wife of Jacob Downing, William and Henry S. and the youngest Mary (sometimes called Molly). The children and her husband, Henry, are usually spoken of through their initials.



Aug. 20. Nancy and self took a walk this morning—called at Betty Flews', and at ye widow Rigers, a poor woman with three children, who lost her Husband a week or 10 days ago. Neighbor Waln and Anna Wells paid us a visit this morning—says 'tis very sickly in Philadelphia. Nancy and self took a walk to the meadow just before sunset. I don't know that I ever saw a more beautiful evening; ye House we are at lays open in front to the Westward, ye Sun set without an intervening cloud, the Sky remained red for nearly an hour afterwards; the full Moon rising towards ye back of ye House, added charms to ye scene; ye weather very temperate.

Aug. 23. A Fever prevails in the City, particularly in Water St. between Race and Arch Sts. of ye malignant kind; numbers have died of it. Some say it was occasioned by damaged Coffee and Fish, which were stored at Wm. Smiths'; others say it was imported in a Vessel from Cape Francois, which lay at our wharf, or at ye wharf back of our store. Doctor Hutchinson is ordered by ye Governor to enquire into ye report. He found, as 'tis said, upwards of 70 persons sick in that square of different disorders; several of this putrid or bilious fever. Some are ill in Water St. between Arch and Market Sts., and some in Race Street. 'Tis really an alarming and serious time.

Aug. 27. A carriage stopped at Hesser's door today enquiring for lodgings—they could get none here, went further up ye road.

Aug. 28. H.S.D. left us about 6 this morning. I gave him a small spoonful of Daffy's Elixer, and Vinegar in a sponge, and a sprig of wormwood. J. S. went after breakfast using the same precautions.

This afternoon our Carriage, driven by a white man, a stranger, came up with Mattresses, Blankets, &c., and Sally Brandt behind—poor black Jo<sup>3</sup> gone away sick to some Negro house, where they have promised to take care of him, and Dr. Foulk is desired to attend him. We have hopes it is not the contagious fever that he has.

Sister and H. D. came up in the evening, Docts. Kuhn and Rush both advised it, as there is a man next door but one to us, who Dr. Kuhn says will quickly die of this terrible disorder.

September 1. First day. A large number of Philadelphians at Germantown meeting this morning. A man was found dead, a day or two ago on the Ridge road, who lay there a day or two unburied.

Sept. 5. I took a walk with H. D. to the meadow to see them bind flax.

Sept. 6. John Cannon, one of the Council, drank tea with us, as he had business with my Husband. He took this in his way home, as the Council and Assembly have broken up on acct. of this very affecting Dispensation; the offices are almost all shut up, and little business done. The doors of the Houses where the infection is are

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<sup>3</sup>Jo was the colored coachman whose name was Joseph Gibbs.

ordered to be marked, to prevent any but those that are absolutely necessary from entering—such is the melancholy and distressing state of our poor City.

Sept. 11. Our Jo Gibbs came up this forenoon looking pale and weak. We would have been as well pleased if he had gone elsewhere, but he wanted to be with us. George Hesser appears unwilling that Jo should stay in his house, as he came out of ye City and has been sick. H. D. sent him back with a letter to J. Drinker. He came up on foot—he has gone back on one of our Horses, to return tomorrow with some Bed-Clothes for us.

Sept. 15. John Hampston dined with us. He came to Philadelphia on sixth day last, in a pilot boat from ye Capes, where ye vessel he came in from Liverpool was aground. Could not get a lodging, and stayed in ye Court-House. Came on seventh day to John Fields, to whom he is recommended; he brought him this morning to Germantown to meeting, and left him with H. D. to get him a lodging, which he has done, at Hessers' tavern,<sup>4</sup> a little below us.

Sept. 16. I took a short walk this evening with Sally Brant. Loaded waggons coming out of ye City, a melancholy sight. Last week was the time appointed to return home, if things had been as usual, as next week is the time of our Yearly meeting.

Sept. 18. Ye people moving in crowds from ye City.

Sept. 24. C. Kucher's body was carried by this morning in a Hearse, about 4 o'clock, to be interred in ye City. The woman that died opposite Sniders was buried yesterday. They say that nobody would assist, and her husband was under the necessity of putting her in her coffin, and that into ye Hearse—then a man took her to ye grave.

The New-York stage passed this door to day. They are endeavoring to stop ye communication between us and New York—they are not permitted to cross at Trenton.

Sept. 26. The mournful accounts last evening from the City of increasing mortality affected our landlord, G. Hesser so, as to keep him all night awake on acct. of H. D. being in the City.

Sept. 27. 'Tis generally agreed that this very alarming disorder is as bad, or worse than ever. S. Coats told some one in Germantown today, that there were 10 graves opened in Friends' burying ground this morning. I heard yesterday that Coffins were kept ready made in piles, near ye State-House for poor people. Jacob Baker's man was this evening in Hesser's kitchen; he says that his mistress's brother has been in town today, and reports that matters are better, and rather an abatement—so say some others. Perhaps they build on a change that has taken place in ye weather—it has rained somewhere, and the air is much cooler. J. Perot heard that they dig trenches in ye Potters field to bury ye dead.

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<sup>4</sup>This was the "Sign of the Buck" or the Buck Tavern.



October 1. Third day. Jacob Baker called; he intends leaving Germantown with him family for New Castle. The people continue moving from ye City, two or three wagons loaded have passed the door this day.

Oct. 5. H. S. D.<sup>5</sup> took a walk this morning with a Segar in his mouth which he smoked out, and soon after found himself very sick and in a sweat. He made shift to get into G. Hesser's Orchard, where he discharged his stomach; he was fearful of doing so on the road; lest he should be suspected of having the prevailing disorder. He came home sick and pale.

Oct. 6. I went after dinner, J. S. with me to visit H. Pemberton. We heard, as we returned, that a young man lay dead opposite the House where ye widow Mullen resides—which is near us. H. S. D. went this afternoon to Isaac Whartons'. He has purchased a place near J. Howel's, on ye Wissahickon, Davis, J. Skyrin's clerk dined here. He came out of the City—eat in ye back room. Emanuel Walker's wife dead, another Daughter of Jas. Starr, and a Doct. Goss also.

Oct. 9. Taking a walk this evening with H. D. towards the meadow by a cornfield that had been lately ploughed; the narrow road filled in places with stubble that had been thrown out of ye field, my foot turned under me, when I fell down, and was so strained and bruised that I could scarcely step with help. My husband and G. Hesser made a chair with their hands, and brought me home on it with my arms around their necks, as I have seen children carry one another. I had it bathed with Opodeldock, and wrapped up in flannel, and tho' 'tis painful this evening, 'tis not so bad as I expected it would have been by what I felt when first hurt.

Oct. 10. There was a marriage at meeting, Dan<sup>l</sup> Thomas and Agnes Johnson; marriage is solemn at all times, and doubly so at present. Joshua Morris and wife, Tommy and Nancy Morgan, Neigh<sup>r</sup> Waln, and Jacob Paxon dined with us. I have been most of this day on ye Bed, only while ye Bed was making—had my foot on a chair, as I cannot put it on ye ground. We have heard of more deaths this day than any day yet, and 'tis said that 150 were buried in ye City yesterday. Betsy Howel told after meeting that Dr. Rush has wrote to Will<sup>m</sup> Lewis, "that the disorder was now past the art of man or medicine to cure, that nothing but the power of the Almighty could stop it," or to this effect.

Oct. 11. I showed my foot this morning to Dr. Lusby, who desired me to change my method of treating it, which was vinegar and opodeldock, and afterwards I bathed it with oil of St. Johnswort; but he orders lead water along, twice a day. My husband and son William took a long ride this forenoon; they stopped at McCalls, at

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<sup>5</sup>Cigars were just being introduced and at this time were used as a disinfectant for the yellow fever epidemic.

Isaac Whartons, and at John Fields. Billy Sansom stopped at our door on Horseback; he is finely recovered. As he just came out of ye City, we did not invite him in.

Oct. 14. There appears to be but a very poor prospect of crops of wheat, occasioned by the drought. Desolation, Cruelty and Distress have of late resounded in our ears from many quarters.

Oct. 17. M. Livezey and her daughter Nancy here this morning. Annabella Cresson dead. Ye widow Livezey, or rather her daughter, pr her order, put a plaster of white of Eggs on to my foot, and anointed it with ye Oil of St. Johnswort, it has felt very warm ever since. It may perhaps be right.

Seven persons, men and women, were this morning baptized, or dipped in a creek about 1½ miles from this place.<sup>6</sup> They are of the society of Dunkers; they differ from ye Anabaptists who are laid in ye water on their backs; those kneel in ye water and are dipped faces downwards, as I am informed. Great numbers went to see the performance. J. S., A. S., H. S. D., and M. D, went this evening to ye Dunkers' meeting.

Oct. 24. Last night between 11 and 12 o'clock, I heard the cry of fire at a distance; on its near approach the family were soon alarmed. George Hesser pronounced it to be John Livezey's house or mill.<sup>7</sup> He went with his buckets. They have a fire company here and one Engine, which was soon on its way; and the people some on foot, others on horseback, were very numerous; but as it is two miles from Germantown, the Mill was burnt down. About 600 Bbls. Flour, 500 Bus. Wheat, a quantity of Salt and Ginger &c. 'Tis thought their loss will be near 3000 Pounds. John Pemberton, my husband, and William went this morning to visit the sufferers; found them pretty well, and much composed considering.

Oct. 29. Widow Livezey here this morning. She applied a plaster of rosin and lard to my poor foot, as it makes still a disagreeable appearance.

Nov. 2. H. D. gone this morning to the City—it is our quarterly meeting. I had the agreeable intelligence from my children, that ye waggons were taking ye people and goods back to ye City. It has cleared up this morning with a fine frost. What a favorable reverse, which calls for humility and thanks.

Nov. 2. Charles Jervis called this morning; his family are at Waterman's, Bucks County. He dined with us. He informed that the widow Tellfare who went into the City last fifth day is since dead in the country.

Nov. 5. This afternoon Richard Downing stopped on Horseback. He came on business to the Governor, who keeps his office in Germantown.

<sup>6</sup>Probably the Baptistry on Wissahickon Creek and near the "Monastery."

<sup>7</sup>Livezey's old mill was on the Wissahickon and ruins are still standing on Livezey's Lane.



A misty rain all day, and heavy shower this evening—wind blowing hard at northeast.

Nov. 6. H. D. and H. S. D. gone down town to ye Washington tavern<sup>s</sup> on business. The inhabitants of Phila. were fast moving into the City before this Storm. 'Tis said, there were upwards of 20,000 had left their dwellings, and retired into the country.

Nov. 10. H. S. D. drank tea at Dr. Logan's, Dr. Parke there, whose opinion is — that those who have moved out of the City, may safely return. 'Tis the sentiments of several other Physicians, as I have heard, within 2 or 3 day.

November 13. When we arose this morning, it was snowing fast, ye houses and trees covered. How much more beautiful the appearance than in ye City! and what in ye country is not?

Nov. 15. H. D. came up this evening with Jo and the carriage in order to facilitate our departure. H. D. settled with G. H., paid him £ ———, our expenses for other things have been Considerable; for provisions, horses, &c. Fine moonlight night.

Nov. 16. After one o'clock, Noke came with their carriage; William and myself left Germantwn with some of our luggage—ye roads but middling. We arrived at home between 2 and 3; found things in statu quo. H. D., with Nancy, her little one and Molly, came half an hour after in our carriage; Sam drove Betsy Hardy in ye chaise. We are all through mercy (tho' not in perfect health) highly favored. Ben. Wilson, John and Dan<sup>l</sup> Drinker called. Most of ye Philadelphians are returned to ye City.

George Nicholas Hesser (2) was the owner of sixteen and one-half acres of ground situated on the northeast side of Germantown Avenue, or Main Street (Old Germantown Road, Germantown, Pa.) lying between what are now Church and Pleasant Streets. This property laid on the same side of the Main Street as, and about one-half mile distant, northeast of the Chew Mansion and immediately opposite land of the estate of George W. Carpenter, deceased. Shortly before the battle of Germantown, George dug a cellar upon the premises for the erection of a dwelling house for himself and family. The Battle of Germantown was fought (in which he took part) and his cellar was used as a burial place for the soldiers killed in that battle. He subsequently erected his house on the same ground, a little farther southeast. One of the descendants of George (Miss Cora M. McKeehan, Chambersburg, Pa.) told the writer that at the time of the battle, the Hessian soldiers fighting with the British, burned the materials for the house.

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<sup>s</sup>Washington tavern is still operating at Main Street and Washington Lane.

George Nicholas Hesser (2) of Germantown, was married to Catherine Boyer, of Frederick, Philadelphia County, on August 11th, 1775 by Minister of the Gospel, Michael Schlatter, the German Reformed Pastor. It has been said that Michael Schlatter, a very distinguished clergyman in his day, was known as the marrying parson and that the number of marriages he performed is almost beyond belief. George (2) kept all of the family records in a large old German Family Bible. This Bible, printed in 1640, is still in the hands of members of the Hesser family living in Iowa. I should like to say that the writer is deeply indebted to Mrs. Gladys Hesser-Lord of Medford, Mass., a great-gr. granddaughter of George Hesser (2), for some of the important family history pertaining to her distinguished ancestor. A translation from German to English of the family records as recorded by George Hesser (2) in the old German family Bible is as follows:

George Hesser, a tanner, was born in Germantown Township, 7 May, 1747

His wife was born the 3d May, 1756.

We were married the 11th August, 1775.

My son Henry Hesser was born the 23 May, 7 o'clock P. M., 1776.

My daughter Magdelene Hesser was born the 24th September, at 11 o'clock A. M., 1777.

My daughter Catharina Hesser was born the 10th of July, 7 o'clock 44 minutes A. M. 1778.

My son George Hesser is born the 7th May, 7 o'clock 35 minutes A. M., 1780.

My daughter Elizabeth Hesser is born the 6th of April, 6 o'clock A. M., 1782.

My daughter Sara is born the 14th of November, 2 o'clock A.M., 1783.

My son Daniel Hesser is born the 22 December 6 o'clock 38 minutes, 1785.

My son John Hesser is born the 11, August 5 o'clock 36 minutes A. M., 1787.

My son Joseph is born the 4th December 10 o'clock 40 minutes, P. M., 1789.

My daughter Maria was born the 26, November 10 o'clock 27 minutes P. M., 1793.

My son George Frederick Hesser is born the 19, January at 8 o'clock 15 minutes P. M. 1800.

Caroline Riter was born June 2, 1811.

Richard Wilson was born July 1, 1821.

On the 13th of October, 1777 my daughter Magdelena died.

The 2d September, 1782, my daughter Catherine died.



The 27th of August, 1786, my son Daniel died.

The 2d of November, 1789, my son George Hesser died.

My son Joseph died 1792 on the 19th of August.

My son George Fridrich Hesser died on the 24th August, 1803.

George Nicholas Hesser died November 14, 1804, aged 57 years, 6 months, and 7 days.

Catherine Hesser died May 3, 1813, aged 57 years.

Maria Riter, daughter of George Hesser, departed this life on the 10th day of April, 1835, aged 40 years, 4 months, and 15 days.

The home life in the George Hesser (2) household was a very happy one. There was culture and refinement expressed in a number of ways and this coupled with social standing and comfortable living made it possible for his children and some of the grandchildren to enjoy the profits of his day. The writer recently spent a very delightful day with one of George's great-grand-daughters (Miss Cora M. McKeehan of Chambersburg, Pa.) a charming, intellectual lady of eighty-one years who told him of her mother's (Elizabeth Hesser-McKeehan) happy experience in her childhood days of having lived for a while with her aunts and grandfather in the fine old George Hesser house in Germantown. While there she went to a private school and among other things, learned to do beautiful needlework. She made a very lovely sampler in 1832 which is a prized possession of Mrs. Walter King Sharp, Chambersburg, Pa., a descendant of the family.

Samplers, those quaint and interesting pieces of needlework, those treasured little squares usually made of linen, prized so much by succeeding generations, form quite a chapter in themselves of early American handicraft. It is interesting to know something of their origin, the materials with which they were made, and above all, to realize the human meaning that lies underneath all expression.

It is interesting to note that the first mention of a sampler occurs when Queen Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII, in 1465, is recorded to have spent 8 pence for one all of linen to make an ensampler. Ensampler is the early English for exemplar, the modern phraseology would be, an example, and in that one word is the whole meaning of the early sampler. We do not realize in this day of machine-made articles what a part needlework played in the early days. Everything was sewed by hand. Therefore, how to preserve those stitches and patterns became an absorbing art and interest.

The sampler, then, is an example or a sort of dictionary of sewing stitches or patterns.

It is said that Catharine of Aragon, wife of Henry VIII, taught the women of Bedfordshire, England, to embroider the very first ones. How true that is, I do not know, but in any case it does show an important form of culture. If the reader is interested in samplers let me recommend his looking at the beautiful ones on display in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The number of sewing patterns is endless on these early fine examples, and they express what they were meant to be, the record book to be handed down to children and grandchildren, the dictionary of needlework. There were many designs, patterns, motives, and figures used during the vogue of sampler making, but it is evident that the sampler went through four different stages.

1. It was a record of sewing design, patterns.
2. It was an example of craftsmanship and handiwork.
3. It was a training for little girls.
4. It was a school room task.

It seems too bad that this charming form of needlework has disappeared. These bits of faded color and sentiment appeal to us in a very pleasant manner. They speak of days in the distant past, of lives spent quietly and quaintly in happy home surroundings before the coming of the motor car and train; what sentiment and art were stitched into these bits of now faded linen patches, what dreams and thoughts were going through the minds of those whose busy little fingers stitched these intricate patterns and designs? Of course, we do not know, but we can look at them with tenderness and in imagination see little Elizabeth Catharine Hesser, age 13, in 1832, sewing on her sampler.

The writer is again indebted to Miss Cora M. McKeelhan of Chambersburg, Pa., for the following description of little Elizabeth's Sampler. "It is made on a sand colored canvas, 18 x 18 inches. There is an ornamental border of conventional design in subdued colors occupying two inches of the surface all the way around. Running in rows across the top are the letters of the alphabet, capitols in two sizes, one row of small letters and a few numbers. Then follows this prayer in small black lettering.



“Jesus permit thy gracious Name to stand  
As the first efforts of a youthful hand  
And while her fingers o’er this canvas move  
Engage her tender hart to seek thy love  
And write thy name thyself upon her heart.”  
“Elizabeth Catharine Hesser, Feby. 13th, 1832”

“Where space allowed, there are trees, flowers in baskets, small animals and rows of fine stitchery. Samplers were made to furnish patterns when needed. Prayers and pious poetry always black. All else in colored worsteds.”

Another reminder of the art of long ago is a pair of silhouettes of George Nicholas Hesser (2) and his wife, Catharina, that were made when they took their wedding journey. This wedding trip was made on horseback and these prized silhouettes are now in the possession of Doctor Lydia Baker Pierce. I can think of nothing that today adds so much atmosphere and charm to a well appointed home, that is so eloquent of by-gone days, as these lovely little profiles.

The silhouette was a profile drawing or painting of a portrait, the outlines of which were filled in in black. This profile picture looked as though a shadow had been cast by a candle. Some of the pictures were cut by scissors from black paper. The name silhouette, so the New Standard Encyclopedia states “is derived from Etienne de Silhouette, a French Minister of Finance, whose rigid economy in 1759 caused his name to be applied to anything incomplete; hence to this kind of likeness, then the mode in Paris.”

The writer has been in correspondence with Doctor Lydia Baker Pierce of Westborough, Mass., who is a great-great-granddaughter. I am indebted to her for considerable information regarding her own family and that of George (2). Dr. Pierce has in her possession a letter addressed to her mother (Mary Jane Rinehold-Baker) in 1897 which was written by her Aunt Sarah Hesser-Porter (born 4-12-1826). Aunt Sarah was eighty one years old when she wrote the letter in answer to an inquiry about George (2). Aunt Sarah says “When I was eight years old my father’s oldest sister, Elizabeth Hesser, made his family a visit in Juniata County, Pa. We always called her Aunt Betsy. When she returned to Germantown she took me with her and kept me with her 13 months. While there I was sent to a select school for little girls taught by a widow lady by the name of Douglas, who lived under the very shadow of the First

Dunkard Church in America. \* \* \* They used to tell me, he (George Nicholas Hesser (2)) was an Ensign in General Washington's Army. I think he was one of General Washington's staff for I heard them say that the General dined with him when it was so that he could. But when that terrible battle came off in Germantown, the Red Coats were as thick nearly as they could stand on G. N. Hesser's premises. A lot of Hessians were right around the house. \* \* \* A stray bullet went through a red flannel petticoat of Grandmother Hessers that was on the clothes line. I was in the old house and was shown where the bullet went into the panel by the fireplace." (Aunt Sarah was visiting her maiden Aunts, Betsy and Sarah Hesser in the new house built by George Hesser (2) afterwards). Continuing Aunt Sarah's letter, "They burned up all the lumber and destroyed all the material that G. N. Hesser had prepared to build a new and commodious residence for his family. However, by dint of pluck and good management he afterwards built a fine substantial mansion. He owned 20 acres of land just opposite the famous Carpenter grounds. My father and Carpenter were school boys together. \* \* \* My aunts (Sarah and Betsy Hesser) always spoke of their Father as being a man of genial disposition, quite a talented singer in his day and was Chorister in the old Lutheran Church." (St. Michaels Evangelical Lutheran Church)

During the years 1793 and 1794 when the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, General George Washington and some of the members of his Cabinet and Staff, lived in Germantown. General Washington and his wife, Martha, occupied a formal old stone mansion on Main Street, known as the Morris House. The Washingtons were very cordial to their neighbors in the town and always showed a fine democratic spirit to all of the inhabitants of the village. They attended the Reformed Church in Germantown regularly and it was the General's custom to do considerable riding and walking about the town. George Nicholas Hesser's (2) home was on the same Main Street and not very far from the Morris House. So, being the genial character that he was, it is possible, that they may have met and reviewed their war experiences and probably fraternized and dined together as Aunt Sarah Hesser states in her letter. Undoubtedly George Hesser (2) had social graces that were attractive and that he dressed well according to the fashion of the day, which would appeal to General George Washington, the gentleman. We know



that George Hesser (2) had "silver buckles on his knees," as well as silver buckles on his shoes, for some years after his passing they were melted and moulded into a dozen tea spoons which certain members of the family now possess. These spoons were plain, but of a beautiful shape with S. H. engraved on the handle. Since the Buck Tavern was on the same Main Street, close at hand, and being a popular meeting place and at that time operated by John Hesser (2), another congenial soul, (brother of George Nicholas Hesser (2) ) it may be that the two Georges met there on occasions. With the three Hesser brothers, John (2), Leonard (2), and George Nicholas (2) all living in Germantown and serving in the same Company of Militia under the general command of Washington, it is very possible that they all knew the "Father of his Country" personally.

George Nicholas Hesser (2) was a prominent member of the St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Germantown. He was appointed Chorister and led the singing for the Congregation. On the Church records we find in 1767, he and his sister Christina Hesser were sponsors at a baptism. He was then, apparently, unmarried, and from indications he dropped the middle name of Nicholas and became George Hesser as we find him upon the Church and County records. His children were baptized by the pastors of St. Michael's Lutheran Church and are so recorded. His family lot in the cemetery, which almost surrounds old St. Michael's Church, is well placed to the front near the entrance of the Church. His tombstone is a fine example of that period. Some years ago Joel Harter Hesser, a great grandson of George (2) had the name and dates on his tombstone recut as the ravages of weather and time were obliterating the lettering.

George (2) and his brothers John (2) and Leonard (2) all served in the same company (Capt. Matthias Gensell's Company) during the Revolutionary War years of 1777 and 1778. So all three brothers helped to defend their homes and families against the British and Hessians when they fought their way through and occupied Germantown and Philadelphia in 1777. The following information from the Pennsylvania Archives verifies the above statement regarding the War service of George (2) John (2) and Leonard (2) for the years 1777 and 1778. There were other years of war service for them, as well as for their brother Frederick (2).

Book—State of the Accounts of the County Lieutenant During the War of the Revolution 1777-1789—Edited by Wm. H. Engle,

Md. Vol. I, Penna. Archives 3rd Series, Vol. 5, P. 613 and 651.  
Philadelphia County No. 11

List of fines received from Absentees on Muster Days, in the 1st battalion of Philadelphia County Militia, Commanded by Col. Daniel Heester, under the direction of Col. Jacob Engle, Sub-Lieut., for the year 1777.

Capt. Matthias Gensell's Company

George Hesser	-----	1 Pound	17 Shilling	6 Pence
John Hesser	-----	1 Pound	17 Shilling	6 Pence
Leonard Hesser	----	1 Pound	2 Shilling	6 Pence

List of fines received from Absentees on Muster Days, of the 2nd battallion of Philadelphia County Militia, commanded by Col. John Moore, under the direction of Col. Jacob Engle, Sub-Lieut., for the year 1778.

Capt. Matthias Gensell's Company

John Hesser	-----	1 Pound	12 Shilling	6 Pence
George Hesser	-----	1 Pound	7 Shilling	6 Pence
Leonard Hesser	----	1 Pound	7 Shilling	6 Pence

The above statement of fines in no way reflects upon the services of these brothers who served in the County Militia. This list of fines included many hundreds of names of patriots who had to get back to their home occupations and were not present on Muster Days. The patriots who served in the Revolution would enlist for possibly three months, then some would re-enlist and others would have to go home to take care of their families and work at home—so there would be absentees on Muster Days.

George Hesser (2), Ensign, was a Color Bearer in the 1st and 2nd battallion of Philadelphia County Militia in Capt. Matthias Gensell's Company commanded by Col. Heester and Col. Moore. He carried the Flag in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine, and crossed the Delaware with George Washington. The epaulettes which he wore during the battle of Germantown are framed and in the possession of Dr. Lydia B. Pierce of Westboro, Mass. They were presented to her great-grandfather in September, 1870 and bear the following inscription:

“Epaulettes worn by George Nicholas Hesser at the  
Battle of Germantown, October 3, 1777  
A Color Bearer in the 1st Regiment, Penna. Militia.”

George Hesser (2), of Germantown Township, in the County of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, skin dresser, left a will dated December 3, 1803, duly proved and registered in the office for



the registry of wills in and for Philadelphia County, in Will Book No. 1, page 269, wherein and whereby he makes certain bequests to his wife, Catharine Hesser, to his nephew, Isaac Hesser (3), son of his brother, Frederick Hesser (2), and to his five children, Elizabeth (3), Sarah (3), John (3), Henry (3), and Mary (3). He directs that the messuage in which he lived, and the lot of ground appurtenant thereto, containing 16-2/4 acres, should be held by his Executors until his youngest son, Henry Hesser (3), should arrive at the full age of twenty-one years, when it is to be sold in five lots according to descriptions made in his will. The messuage and five acres on the northeast side of Main Street (the old number of the house being 5519 and the new number 6749, was sold by John Hesser (3), Phillip Bower, and John Gorgas, Executors of George Hesser (2), to John Johnson by deed dated May 17, 1813, and recorded in Deed Book, I. C. No. 25, page 536, which deed recites that the youngest son had become of age.

8. GEORGE NICHOLAS HESSER (2), son of Johann Friedrich Hesser (1) and Anna Maria Catharina Hofman-Hesser, b. May 7, 1747; d. Nov. 14, 1804; m. Catharine Boyer, Aug. 11, 1775; b. May 3, 1756; d. May 3, 1813. Res. Germantown, Pa., both are buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery in Germantown.

*Issue:* All born in Germantown, Pa.

298. HENRY (3), b. 1776

299. MAGDELENE (3), b. Sept. 24, 1777; d. Oct. 13, 1777

300. CATHARINE (3), b. July 10, 1778; d. Sept. 2, 1782

301. GEORGE (3), b. May 7, 1780; d. Nov. 2, 1789

302. ELIZABETH (3), b. April 6, 1782; d. Sept. 3, 1852, never married.

303. SARA (3), b. Nov. 14, 1783; d. Feb. 24, 1860; never married.

304. DANIEL (3), b. Dec. 22, 1785; d. Aug. 27, 1786

305. JOHN G. (3), b. Aug. 11, 1787; d. Aug. 18, 1828; never married.

306. JOSEPH (3), b. Dec. 4, 1789; d. Aug. 19, 1792.

307. HENRY GOTTLIEB (3), b. May 23, 1792; d. Jan. 15, 1871

308. MARIA (3), b. Nov. 26, 1793; d. Apr. 10, 1835; married ———  
Riter

309. GEORGE FREDERICK (3), b. Jan. 19, 1800; d. Aug. 24, 1803

References:—

St. Michael's Lutheran Church records, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia County Will Book No. 1, P. 269.

The Revolutionary War Record is given.

Biographical sketches for the above will be found in this book.  
 Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd series, Vol. 5, pp. 613 and 651.  
 The George Nicholas Hesser Family Bible.

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307. HENRY GOTTLIEB HESSER (3), b. May 4, 1792, Germantown, Pa. Married Hannah Negley, March 14, 1816. Died Jan. 15, 1871, buried in Muscatine, Iowa.

Henry Gottlieb Hesser (3) was the son of George Nicholas Hesser (2) and Catharine Boyer-Hesser. He attended school at Mount Airy Seminary, Germantown, and this school was taught by Joseph Buckins. After his father's death, Henry (3) carried on the hat business established by his father. Later, he located on a farm in Fermanagh township, Mifflin County, Pa., where he reared his family. Between the years 1817 and 1827, his name appears on the tax lists of Fermanagh township, where he and his sisters Elizabeth (3) and Sarah (3) owned a farm. He was highly thought of in the neighborhood for he was appointed justice of the peace in Jan. 1820. He married Hannah Neagley, daughter of George Neagley and Hannah Snyder-Neagley, the latter was a full cousin of Governor Snyder of Pennsylvania. April 25, 1854 Henry (3) sold his farm and he and his family moved to Muscatine County, Iowa. He was a devout christian gentleman and was honored and revered by all who knew him.

*Issue:*

- 310. ELIZABETH CATHARINE (4), b. May 22, 1818; d. — 1902; m. Joseph G. McKeehan, 1839.
- 311. LYDIA (4), b. Sept. 7, 1820; d. Feb. 10, 1892; m. Dr. Charles G. Reinhold Aug. 13, 1839; res. Lewistown, Baalsburg, Milton, Williamsport, Pa.
- 312. WILLIAM (4), b. Aug. 11, 1822; d. Oct. 17, 1822.
- 313. MARY JANE (4), b. March 18, 1824; d. June 11, 1825.
- 314. SARAH ANN (4), b. April 12, 1826; d. 1910; m. John B. Porter; res. Iowa.
- 315. GEORGE WASHINGTON (4), b. Dec. 14, 1828; d. April 4, 1834.
- 316. MARTHA JANE (4), b. July 25, 1831; d. Sept. 24, 1881; m. (1) William Hess, (2) William H. Stewart.
- 317. HANNAH CAROLINE (4), b. Aug. 15, 1834; m. (1) Isaac Harless (2) Mr. Cowdery.
- 318. JOSEPH HENRY (4), b. Feb. 28, 1838; d. Dec. 12, 1892; m. Dec. 25, 1861, (1) Lydia Margaret Harter, (2) Mary Watt; res. Muscatine, Iowa.
- 319. CHARLES WESLEY (4), b. Dec. 17, 1841 Juniata County, Pa.;



res. Louisa County, Iowa; m. Adelaide Amelia Carpenter, Oct. 11, 1868; d. Colorado Springs, Colorado, Feb. 18, 1915.

References:

See Mifflin County Tax lists, Basement Mifflin County Court House, Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

Mifflin County Recorders Office, Lewistown, Pa., Deed Book O, P. 57.

Orphans Court record, Mifflin County.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church Records, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Juniata County Deeds, book G, P. 544 at Mifflintown, Pennsylvania.

310. ELIZABETH CATHARINE HESSER (4), b. May 22, 1818; d. — 1902; m. 1839 Joseph McKeehan; to this union were born Charles Watson McKeehan (5), Lawyer, Philadelphia, Pa.; Hannah Jane (5), m. Mr. Cook, Chambersburg, Pa.; Martha Minnick (5), m. Mr. Wright, Chambersburg, Pa.; Joseph Hamlin (5), of Philadelphia and Carlisle, Pa.; Wilbur Fisk (5); Lizzie Sargent (5), m. Mr. Tull; George Hesser McKeehan (5) of Washington, D. C.; Cora McClure McKeehan (5), Chambersburg, Pa. Miss Cora M. McKeehan (5) is one of those rare intellectuals of which any family would be most happy to boast. A combination of wholesome good humor, wit, intelligence, a great lover of the beautiful, a teacher in the truest sense, an adviser to both young and old, who at the age of eight-two is alert and keen and clear-eyed, going about with faculty members from Wilson College in Chambersburg, as well as the youth and older folk of her dear little city. Recently the writer received a reply from her Lincoln Way Cottage in answer to a request for a biographical sketch. It contains her fine philosophy of life, and for the benefit of all Hessers, I am quoting it:

"My dear Mr. Hesser:

Next to the exhilaration of being asked for one's photograph is the request for one's autobiography.

"There is, of course, one's birth and one's death. I have not yet fulfilled my contract.

"What lies between? You have set me a task. In retrospect I see so little of my own life, it is all other people's lives that have touched mine. Denied the closest of human ties I have vicariously lived the lives of three generations of close relatives and in friendships which included all ages and variations in human form. Liking all kinds of people so sincerely I possibly drifted into the role of "guide, philosopher and friend," most certainly into a confidant, a

safety-valve, an encourager of matrimony. A *teacher* at different periods "of children, not subjects," seeking and getting from Above some insight, some understanding, all the while reaping a full and abundant "recompense of reward," believing that bread so cast upon the waters goes not out to sea.

"Seriously—I was born December 22, 1862, in a town now known as Columbia, Pennsylvania. Through Civil War years, we lived in Shippensburg. Changes in the family brought us to Chambersburg when I was five years old to this "vine covered cottage" where I have spent my long life looking on as marriages brought more into the Clan and funerals took parents and seven brothers and sisters (who were grown up when I was only in childhood) not to mention in-laws, nieces, and nephews and their contribution to the sum total of what enters into what we call a life.

"Having lost so many I still live on in the enjoyment of Providential care, the homage of former pupils, and in the constant solicitude of many relatives and friends remaining.

"I guess the outstanding event in my life was a trip abroad in 1931 which greatly enriched my outlook on the cultural side.

"Please take from what I send you what you please, making it short and not so revealing as to violate good taste and fitness.

"Interruptions have done their best to defeat the contents of what I wished to oblige you with.

Sincerely yours,

Cora M. McKeehan

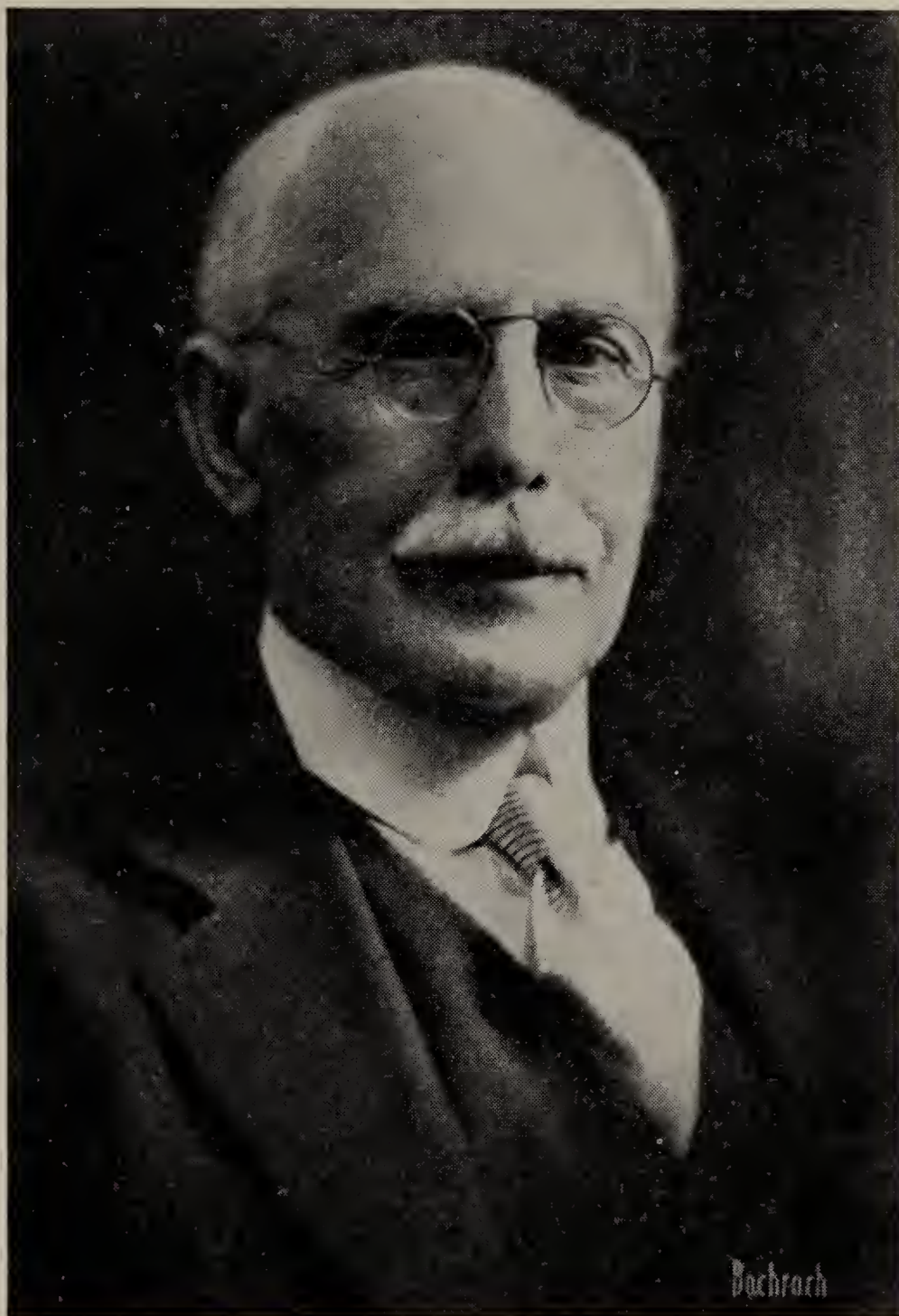
July 14, 1945"

311. LYDIA HESSER (4), b. Sept. 7, 1820; d. Feb. 10, 1892; m. Aug. 13, 1839 to Dr. Charles G. Reinhold; res. Lewistown, Baalsburg, Milton and Williamsport, Pa.; to this union were born Eleanor (5), 1840-41; Maria Louise (5), 1842-1851; Dr. Hahnemann Etzler (5), 1844-79, never married; Dr. Ferdinand Konig (5), 1846-83, married, no children; Charles Henry (5), 1849-1908, m. Martha Guise had one son, Franklin (6); Franklin (6) m. Laura Troxell, issue one son, Chester (7) and one daughter, Mary Martha Reinhold (7)-Gilmor—issue Alice Elizabeth Gilmor (8) and Lydia Rheinhold Gilmore (8).

Dr. Hannah Catharine (5) 1851-1920, never married; Dr. Maximillian (5), 1855-1902; Mary Jane (5) (Mazie) b. Sept. 7, 1857; d. Feb. 24, 1937; m. M. R. Baker; res. Williamsport, Pa.: issue Lydia Baker (6), b. April 24, 1883.

Dr. Lydia Baker-Pierce (6), imminent Pathologist, great-great granddaughter of George Nicholas Hesser (2) and Anna Maria Catharina Hofman-Hesser was born in Williamsport, Pa., April 24,





JOEL HARTER HESSER (5)

1867-1945

Educator, and founder of the Hesser Business College, Manchester, New Hampshire. A pioneer in the field of business education and was known as "The Dean of the New England Business College."

1883; was graduated from the Williamsport High School in 1902; graduated from Boston University, School of Medicine 1906 and was interne, and later resident in Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals of Boston; married in 1911 to Ward Irving Pierce; in 1916 appointed to Medical Staff of Allentown State Hospital, Allentown, Pa., where she was Pathologist and in 1921 was appointed Pathologist for the Westborough State Hospital, Westborough, Mass.; she is a member of the American Psychiatric Society, the Massachusetts Society of Psychiatry, the New England Psychiatric Society, Massachusetts Society for Research in Psychiatry, a fellow of the American Medical Association and as a specialist in Pathology has the certificate of the American Board of Pathology; received the degree Ch. B. Boston University at the end of third year in the School of Medicine in addition to the M.D.; in addition to her professional services, Dr. Pierce has contributed to Medical magazines and to the Cyclopedia of Medicine.

318. JOSEPH HENRY HESSER (4), b. Feb. 28, 1838; d. Dec. 12, 1892; m. Dec. 25, 1861, (1) Lydia Margaret Harter, (2) Mary Frances Watt; res. Muscatine, Iowa. Occupation, farmer.

*Issue:*

320. CHARLES WILLIAM (5), b. May 6, 1863; d. Jan. 21, 1945; res., Somers, Iowa. Never married. Occupation, farmer and surveyor.

321. HENRY GRANT (5), b. Oct. 25, 1864; m. Susan Mingles. Res. Somers, Iowa. Occupation, farmer.

322. JOEL HARTER (5), b. July 27, 1867; d. March 13, 1945; res. Manchester, N. H.; m. Laura Jane Fry; May 19, 1897; Educator.

323. HORACE CLARK (5), b. Apr. 4, 1884; d. Jan. 23, 1925; (son of Joseph Henry and Mary Watt); m. Ida Knutson; he was an insurance salesman.

324. SARAH ELIZABETH (5), b. Jan. 9, 1869; d. —; unmarried.

321 HENRY GRANT HESSER (5), b. Oct. 25, 1864; m. Susan Mingles, occupation farmer; res. Somers, Iowa.

*Issue:*

325. JOSEPH EARL (6), b. Dec. 18, 1893; killed in Argonne Forest, World War I, Oct. 9, 1918; never married.

326. JOHN HENRY (6), b. Aug. 8, 1889; m. Maude Coan; res. Fort Dodge, Iowa.

327. HORACE FREDERICK (6), b. Feb. 10, 1895; m. Etta Dolder; occupation, farmer; res. Cosmos, Minnesota.



328. HAROLD WILLIAM (6), b. Aug. 16, 1903; never married; res. Grinnell, Iowa.

329. ARCHER ELWOOD (6), b. Feb. 24, 1900; m. Irene Payson; Government employee; res. Somers, Iowa.

330. FANNY ATTALEE (6), b. Dec. 29, 1891; never married; telegraph employee; res. Des Moines, Iowa.

331. GLADYS LUCILLE (6), b. April 28, 1897; m. William C. Coan; res. Council Bluff, Iowa.

*Issue:* Maude Belle, Shirley Vadua, George Elwood, Norma Irene

326. JOHN HENRY HESSER (6), b. Aug. 8, 1889; m. Maude Coan; res. Fort Dodge, Iowa.

*Issue:*

332. ETHEL BEULAH (7), b. —, m. Robert A. Knutson; a son, Robert William.

333. EMMA PEARL (7), b. —, m. Morris M. Miller.

334. WILLIAM GRANT (7), b. —, m. Charlotte Lichtenberg; 1st Lt. Air Corps, World War II.

327. HORACE FREDERICK (6), b. Feb. 10, 1895; m. Etta Dodler; farmer, Cosmos, Minnesota.

*Issue:*

335. HAROLD LOUIS (7)

336. GERALD (7)

329. ARCHER ELWOOD HESSER (6), b. Feb. 24, 1900; m. Irene Payson; res. Carroll, Iowa.

*Issue:*

337. CHARLES ELWOOD (7)

338. HENRY GRANT (7)

339. JAMES WILLIAM (7)

322. JOEL HARTER HESSER (5), Educator, Founder of the Hesser Business College, b. July 27, 1867; m. May 19, 1897 Laura Jane Fry; d. March 13, 1945; res. Manchester, New Hampshire.

Joel Harter Hesser was a pioneer in the field of business education and was known as "The Dean of the New England Business College." His school for business stands as a monument to his life's work and the thousands of students he has trained are living monuments to a life devoted to his one love, his school.

Joel Harter Hesser, Principal and Proprietor of the Hesser Business College of Manchester, New Hampshire, was born July 27, 1867, in a log cabin in the "forks of the rivers" in Louisa County,

Iowa, the son of Joseph Henry Hesser and Lydia Harter, formerly of Pennsylvania, who had moved to the West in a covered wagon, there to settle and rear their family.

He attended country schools until thirteen, then spent the next ten years, long weary years, in the saddle as a cowpuncher, enduring all the exposure, hardship, and abuse which go with that romantic life. Filled with the ambition to better himself, he left home with twenty dollars borrowed from an in-law, and entered Cedar Rapids Business College. Opportunity presented to him the chance to study penmanship under Louis Madarasz, one of the greatest penman known. Through years of struggle, he earned his way through Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa, by teaching penmanship, an art at which he was a master. Because of his ability as a penman, he secured a position as teacher of penmanship in the Nelson Business College, Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1895 the desire to see the East moved him to go to Pennsylvania, the home of his ancestors. There he continued teaching, first in a country school, then Mifflin Academy, Pennsylvania Business College in Lancaster, and Banks Business College, Philadelphia, where he was the first teacher in its commercial department. While there he conceived the idea that he could conduct a business of his own.

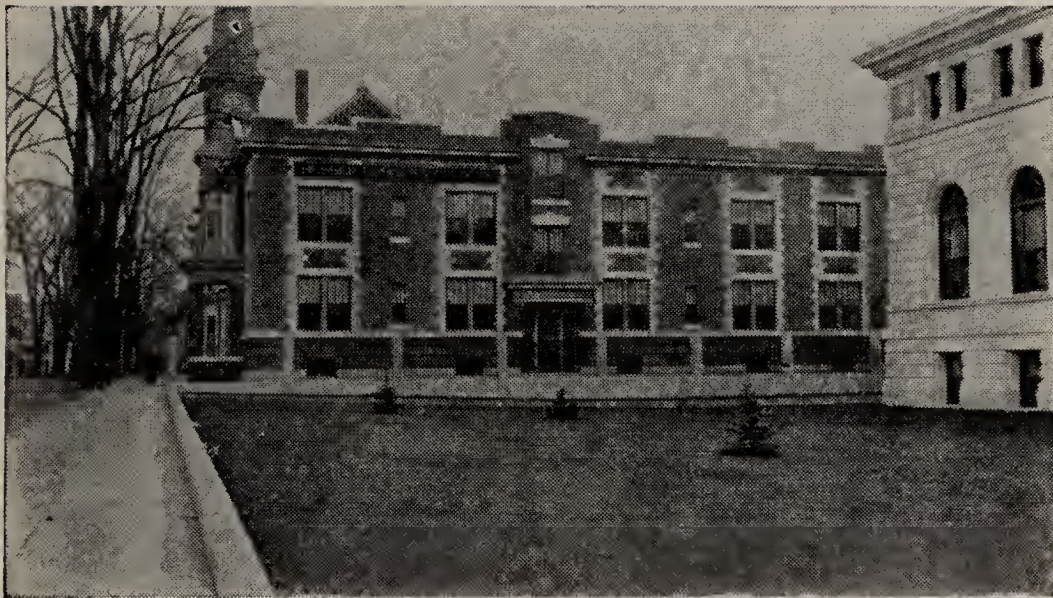
June 1, 1900 saw the realization of a dream, when he went to Manchester, New Hampshire and founded the school which to this day bears his name. After conducting his school in various locations, he built and in September 1915, started classes in his own building, the first business school in New England to be in its own building, planned and constructed exclusively for the training of young people for business life.

At the time of his death, March 13, 1945, his school was the leading business school in Northern New England, managed along the most efficient lines and according to the most improved business methods in the training of commercial students.

In 1899 he married Laura Jane Fry in Millerstown, Pennsylvania, who died February 1, 1930. They are survived by one daughter, Gladys (Mrs. George P. Lord) who is carrying on the school founded by her father.

He was never active in politics, but a staunch Republican, and the last five years cast his ballot from a sick bed. He was an active mem-





THE HESSER BUSINESS COLLEGE  
MANCHESTER, N. H.

The first business college in New England to be located in its own building, planned and constructed exclusively for the training of young people for business life. Joel Harter Hesser (5) was the founder, principal and proprietor until his death in 1945.

ber of the New England Business College Association, of which he was the founder and the first president.

He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Manchester. Joel Hesser was a self-made man, and an excellent example of what a man can accomplish when he has the will to work, and the determination to succeed.

In the March 13, 1945 issue of the Manchester (N. H.) daily paper is a fine picture of Joel (5) and the following quotation from it tells of his life and death:

"JOEL H. HESSER DIES AT AGE 77

Prominent Educator Established Business College Here"

"A former cowboy on the Western plains before coming to Manchester, where he founded the Hesser Business college 45 years ago, Joel H. Hesser, 77, died today at his home, 245 Sagamore street, this city, after a long career that directed many young people in their preparation for a business vocation.

"The New Hampshire educator was proud of his early boyhood and took great delight in telling stories of the days when he rode the western plains as a cowboy. Hundreds of his students have listened with interest to his first-hand stories of the West in the late 1800's.

"The Manchester college head was well known in the northeastern states as organizer of the New England Business College Association and as first president of the organization. He was also a member of the National Council of Business Schools.

CAME HERE IN 1900

"Mr. Hesser came to Manchester in 1900 and purchased the Daniels and Downs Private School, which had been started in 1892 by Mrs. Frank L. Downs and Miss Harriet Daniels. Mr. Hesser brought to the school he was establishing a keen insight into the needs of young people for a preparation to enable them to serve business efficiently. This insight and experience was gained by Mr. Hesser while attending Upper Iowa University and while teaching in a number of the leading business schools of the Middle West and later in the East at the University of Philadelphia.

"The present site of the business school on Concord street, east of the City library, was purchased in September of 1915, and when the college building was completed it was the first in New England to be





GLADYS HESSER-LORD

The present Head of the Hesser Business College, Manchester, New Hampshire, succeeding her distinguished father, the late Joel Harter Hesser (5).

planned and constructed solely for training of young people for business life. Through the years the college expanded and kept abreast of improved business methods. The enrollment at the college has included students from near and far.

#### HONORED BY ASSOCIATION

"Back in 1941 Mr. Hesser announced that due to failing health he was retiring from active participation in association events of the New England Business College Association. At that time members of the organization he had formed honored him with resolutions that described his distinction and service to the organization, his part in promoting good business education, and his sound influence in association work.

"He was born in Musketeen, Ia., July 27, 1867, the son of Joseph H. and Lydia (Harter) Hesser. He was a resident of Manchester for 45 years and a member of the First Congregational church.

"Friends may call at the Wallace-Gifford chapel at 116 Lowell street at their convenience after 3 p.m. on Wednesday. Funeral services will take place at the chapel Thursday afternoon, March 15, at 2 o'clock with Rev. Mark Strickland, pastor of the First Congregational church, officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Lutheran church cemetery at Millerstown, Pa., on Saturday afternoon."

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#### *Issue:*

340. GLADYS HESSER (6), b. April 24, 1899; m. Oct. 5, 1929 to Commander George P. Lord, of the U. S. Navy; res. 99 Whitney Road, Medford, Massachusetts.

340. GLADYS HESSER LORD, was born April 24, 1899 in Pfoutz's Valley, Millerstown, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Joel Harter Hesser, and Laura (Fry) Hesser. When an infant the family moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, where her father purchased a business school and founded the Hesser Business College, which he owned and managed as long as he lived, and which is now being carried on by his daughter, Gladys.

She was educated in the public schools of Manchester, graduating from Manchester High School in the Class of 1918. She turned her endeavors to a business career, and graduated from Hesser Business College, and Gregg College of Chicago, Illinois, where she specialized in secretarial training. Teachers courses at Boston University and



Columbia University followed, each an additional training for a career to lead others along business and secretarial fields.

This business career was interrupted in October 5, 1929, when she married Captain George P. Lord of Salem, Massachusetts, and she took up the duties of a home-maker in Medford, Massachusetts. However, the home did not receive her undivided attention as she was called upon to assist in the management of the school during her father's long illness. At the death of Joel H. Hesser, March 13, 1945, the business passed to her, and she will carry on in the footsteps of her father.

Gladys Hesser Lord is active in many organizations, and holds membership in the following: New England Business College Association, National Council of Business Schools, Eastern Commercial Teachers Association, Business and Professional Women's Club of Manchester, Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter D. A. R., Ex-regent's Club of Massachusetts, Army and Navy Women's Club of Boston, Women's Republican Club of Massachusetts.

Her church membership is in the First Congregational Church of Manchester, New Hampshire. No issue.

323. HORACE CLARK HESSER (5), b. April 4, 1884, d. January 23, 1925. Married Ida Knutson. Insurance salesman.

*Issue:*

341. JOSEPH EUGENE (6), b. Aug. 27, 1920; res. Sac City, Iowa; m. Shirley Laskier.

342. VIVIAN LUCILLE (6), b. June 27, 1918, res. Washington, D. C.; m. Harry Ingram; issue—Judith Ann, born July 15, 1940 and Jack Eugene, born September 18, 1944.

319. CHARLES WESLEY HESSER (4), b. Dec. 17, 1841 in Juniata County, Pa.; married Adelaide Amelia Carpenter, Oct. 11, 1868; he served his country during the Civil War, 1862-1865. Died Feb. 18, 1915; res. Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Charles Wesley Hesser (4), son of Henry Gottlieb Hesser, enlisted in the Civil War in September 18, 1862 as a private. He received an honorable discharge in 1865. The account in the official records of the War Department at Washington, of Charles W. Hesser as a soldier, closes with:

“He bore a gallant part in all the service of his regiment until he was taken sick in the winter of 1864, and took part in the capture of Spanish Fort, Alabama, after rejoining his regiment in 1865, rendering meritorious service to his country.”

During his entire life he was tremendously interested in the work of the Methodist Church and his home was a gathering place for ministers and church workers. He was Post Commander of Post 22, Grand Army of the Republic, and a member of many other patriotic organizations.

*Issue:*

343. GRACE HESSER (5), b. Oct. 25, 1869; m. Clarence A. Fitch Apr. 22, 1896; Issue: Katharine, Marion, Marjorie; Res. San Marino, California.

344. BLANCHE HESSER (5), b. May 28, 1871; m. Albert Solon Booth Oct. 30, 1895; Issue: Albert Solon, b. Oct. 17, 1901, Milton Hesser, b. June 24, 1904, James Wesley, b. May 28, 1911. Res. Pueblo, Colorado.

344. BLANCHE HESSER-BOOTH (5), Civic and Church Leader, daughter of Charles Wesley Hesser (4) and Adelaide (Carpenter) Hesser, was born near Coneville, in Louisa County, Iowa, May 28, 1871.

In 1889 her family moved to Colorado Springs and here she met Albert Solon Booth, whom she married six years later. The young couple moved immediately to Pueblo, Colorado where they made their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Booth, as well as their children, are members of the First Methodist Church in Pueblo, and Mrs. Booth has been one of the most tireless workers in promoting its advancement. Her home and her church have been her two great interests, and to both she gives a warm and active enthusiasm. Beloved of many people, both in public and private life, she has long been recognized as an inspiring and successful religious and civic leader and organizer.

Her leadership in church and civic affairs has been phenomenal—such as President of the Ladies Aid Society, Member of Advisory Committee for the Public Schools, The McClelland Orphanage, member of the Child Welfare Board, the Whitaker House board, Y. W. C. A., Exec. Board; the Red Cross exec. comm.; the Community Chest Board; the D. A. R.; the First World War hospital and Canteen Service—in charge of 100 women; a distinguished civic leader in her community.

345. MILTON HENRY (5), b. Mar. 10, 1873; d. March 10, 1877; res. Clay County, Kansas.

346: CHARLES WESLEY (5), b. Mar. 1, 1876; d. Apr. 10, 1935, m. Claudia Farnsworth; no issue.



347. LYDIA HESSER (5), m. Harry E. Gardner; res. Los Angeles, California; no issue.
348. ROY ROSCOE (5), b. Sept. 16, 1885; m. Ida May Stigenwalt; res. Colorado Springs, Colo.; one son Howard Leroy (6)
349. VERNIE (5), b. Oct. 14, 1888; d. June 26, 1907; res. Colorado Springs, Colorado.
348. ROY ROSCOE HESSER (5), b. September 16, 1885; married Ida May Stigenwalt; residence, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

*Issue:*

350. HOWARD LEROY (6), b. June 19, 1909, Colorado Springs; m. Agnes Louise Livingston; address, Motor Route 3, Colorado Springs, Colo. Issue:
351. Marjorie Louise (7), b. July 27, 1937
352. Carol Lea (7), b. Sept. 5, 1939

## VIRGINIA, OHIO, INDIANA, AND IOWA HESSER FAMILIES



THE westward course of migration for the early German settlers who came to Pennsylvania varied seemingly, according to the way their pioneer friends and relatives had traveled west before them. They seemed to follow certain trails, today you could hardly call them roads, and to move in groups, and would locate in small settlements of German-speaking peoples where they were able to buy cheap land (about \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre) or take up a government claim of land. Some moved west in Pennsylvania through Lancaster, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Lewistown, Pittsburgh, and on into Ohio; while others traveled more to the south down across Maryland into the valley of Virginia and appeared later in Ohio and points west. It would seem that the following Hesser families journeyed southward possibly from the vicinity of York or Lancaster, Pennsylvania, into Virginia. We find Hessers at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, also in Loudoun and Louisa counties in Virginia, also in Taylor county which is now West Virginia (formerly Virginia).

The mode of transportation in those early days was difficult and slow, as they traveled in heavy, cumbersome, overland freight wagons, on horseback and on foot.

Your author recently re-read the history of Jefferson County, Ohio, which is one of the chapters in Henry Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio (Vol. I). You will note that some of the following Hessers traveled southwest from Pennsylvania to Virginia, then later moving west, settled for a time in Jefferson County, Ohio, and some in Columbiana and Stark counties, all three of these counties join each other in eastern Ohio. In the Howe text, a pioneer, William C. Howells, father of William Dean Howells, the American author and poet born in Ohio, describes their trip west to Jefferson county, Ohio, from Loudoun county, Virginia, in 1812. You will also note in the following genealogy that Jacob Hesser (3) was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, in 1812 as was John Conrad (2) and Peter (2). So the following quotation of Howells' will help to tell the story of



the difficulties experienced in transportation by the Hessers as they journeyed from Pennsylvania, through Loudoun County, Virginia, to their new Ohio homes. Howells says, "In 1812 he (my father) was at Waterford, Loudoun county, Virginia. In the spring of 1813, as soon as the roads were in proper condition, my father engaged with one of the 'Waggoners of the Alleghenies' for our passage to Brownsville, Pennsylvania, which was the usual place of changing shipments from wagons to boats, on the way to Ohio. The wagons used in the transportation of goods on that route were large and heavy, drawn by teams of four, five and six horses. They would hold and carry 5,000 to 9,000 pounds, and movers took passage in them as they would in boats for themselves and household effects. The wagon in which we traveled was one of the five-horse class, owned and driven by one Thomas, not Mr. Birchard, who did not drink whiskey or swear at his horses, which my mother regarded as virtues of high esteem. At this time he had loaded nearly full at Alexandria and took us on to complete the cargo. I very well remember that mother, my sister, brother, and myself, were weighed at the time our goods were loaded on, and all charged for at so much per pound, though I forget at what price, if I ever knew. My father had a pony, which he rode in company with the two wagons that travelled together, for mutual help over bad places and steep hills, when they joined teams. The trip was necessarily a slow one, as twenty miles was a long day's drive.

"Arriving at Brownsville, we gladly stopped to rest and wait for a boat. We happened upon a new flat boat, which was being floated to Pittsburgh in which we found unbounded room, after the cramped journey in the wagon. At Pittsburgh we changed to what was then called a keel boat; a kind of barge about the size of a canal boat. In it we soon floated the eighty miles to Warrenton, at the mouth of Short Creek, then a thriving village, and an important point for building flat boats—. Three miles up the creek brought us to our destination, and we took our position as Ohioans seventy-five years ago."<sup>1</sup>

If the interested reader will get out his map of the United States, or better still, a good atlas of the states with counties marked, he can trace pretty well the route taken by these early Hessers as they

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<sup>1</sup>The venerable Mr. Howells wrote the above in December 1887, when he was eighty years old, for the Historical Collections of Ohio (in two volumes) by Henry Howe, LL.D. and published in 1888.

journeyed ever westward to their new homes. If you will start from York or Lancaster, Pennsylvania then move in a southwesterly direction across Maryland to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, cross the Shenandoah or Potomac rivers at this point and you are in Loudoun County, Virginia. Then on northwestward to the Ohio River, and you are in Jefferson County, Ohio. (Stubenville is the county seat of Jefferson County.) Then they went on into Columbiana and Stark Counties which joins Jefferson and then later into central and western Ohio. Some did not stay in Ohio but went on further west into Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma. A descendant of Jonathan Hesser (b. 1791) told your author a number of years ago that Jonathan was born in Loudoun County, Virginia.

These early generations of Hessers seemed to be generally farmers. They were fine, wholesome citizens who generally raised large families, attended the churches of their choice, defended their country in time of war, and lived good lives in their various communities. Many of them belonged to the Church of Christ (United Brethren) and many others were ardent workers in the Baptist denomination. Later generations we find in the Methodist, Presbyterian, and other protestant denominations. We also find the later generations leaving the farms they had tilled and going into business, the trades, and the various professions.

A search of the U. S. Census Archives in Washington, D. C. reveals early Hesser families living in Virginia. The 1810 U. S. census for Loudoun County, Virginia, lists as heads of families, Hannah Hesser with a large family and also Jno. Hesser with wife, four young children under ten years of age, and five slaves. The 1850 census for Taylor County, Virginia (now West Virginia) lists Andrew Hesser with wife Mary, and children Harmon, John, Hannah, Andrew, and Mary. There were also Hessers living in Louisa county, Virginia and at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The early U. S. census records show Hessers living in Columbiana County, Ohio.

There were listed, according to "Rupp's Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of Emigrants to Pennsylvania," four Hessers, who came from Germany to America between the years 1732 and 1767. Johann Friedrich came in 1732, John Heinrich (Henry) in 1767, Joh. Ludwig in 1753 and Johann Conrad in 1752.



Johann Friedrich's history and the genealogy of his family is accounted for in this text—John Heinrich (Henry) born in 1760 and arrived in this country in 1767, served in the Revolutionary War and settled in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, further information regarding him is not, at present available. There was a Ludwig Hesser in York County, Pa., in 1783 and he may be the John Ludwig, who arrived in 1753. Johann Conrad who arrived October 20, 1752 may be the ancestor for the Ohio and Iowa Hessers whose genealogy follows—then again, Henry who arrived in 1767 might be the one as we find both the name of Henry and Conrad in the following families. There would seem to be a generation in between either Johann Conrad or Henry which is not accounted for to date and the one we are here starting with.

## VIRGINIA, OHIO, INDIANA, AND IOWA HESSER FAMILIES

The Descendants of PETER CONRAD HESSER (1767—?) or  
JOHANN CONRAD HESSER

1. The descendants of JOHN CONRAD HESSER (1791-1844)
2. The descendants of JONATHAN HESSER (1791-1876)
3. The descendants of ANDREW HESSER (1799 or 1800—?)
4. The descendants of PETER HESSER (1805—?)
5. There were undoubtedly others.

400. PETER CONRAD HESSER (1)?, b. 1767, Germany? Tradition, coming from family sources, has it that he came to Pennsylvania as a young man. This is all of the information your author has at this time. Rupp's Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of Emigrants to Pennsylvania, lists a Johann Conrad Hesser as arriving October 20, 1752 on the Ship Duke of Wirtemberg, from Rotterdam, Daniel Montpelier, Commander. This may be the Peter Conrad Hesser listed above.

The exacting genealogist and family historian bases his assertions on authentic information and proven facts and does not rely too much on family tradition or heresay. In considering Peter Conrad Hesser, it should be stated that the information given your author regarding him comes through family tradition and so I am recording it in that way. There seems to be no documentary evidence concerning him.

It appears that family records were not kept by these early pioneering Hesser families (except for one old Bible record which has been referred to) so your author has had to secure and rely largely on information procured through the searching of early County Land and Personal Tax lists and U. S. census records. With such scanty, though authentic information, he has tried to tie the families together, through family names, dates of births and deaths, and where they lived, and their course of migration. With this meager information at hand, and in some instances the misspelling of the family name, possible mistakes in the exact orderly arrangement of the family may have been made. However, your author



wishes to assure the interested reader that he has tried valiantly to bring some kind of order out of chaos, as far as establishing this family line is concerned. Therefore this extended explanation is injected to help throw some light on the early family record which seems to be logical as well as authentic.

An examination of the Personal Tax Lists and the Land Tax Lists of Loudoun County, Virginia, from 1782 to 1825 reveals the following information regarding Hesser families.

CONRAD HESSER. The Personal and Land Tax Lists of Loudoun County show Conrad Hesser there in 1782, 1783, 1784; then his name disappears for two years and reappears from 1787 to 1792. He evidently leased land from a Mrs. Mary Lee, as he is listed for "190 A. Tenant of Mrs. Mary Lee." In 1793 ANN HESSER becomes "Tenant to Mrs. Mary Lee for 190 A." So it would seem that ANN HESSER took over the land from CONRAD HESSER. In 1789, CONRAD HESSER died intestate in Loudoun County, Virginia. There is an inventory of his estate dated December 14, 1789. In this inventory it does not mention the names of any children.

A PETER HESSER is listed from 1791 to 1797.

ANN HESSER is listed from 1789 (date of Conrad's death) to 1800.

An ANDREW HESSER is listed from 1794 to 1806; then from 1826 to 1829 (there would seem to be two Andrews). ANDREW had 156 A. in 1805. HANNAH HESSER appears with 156 A. in 1807. It would seem as if HANNAH had come into possession of ANDREWS land. (Hannah may have been the wife of Andrew.) Under HANNAH's name the land is described as "4 mi. S. E. of Blue Ridge." HANNAH is listed on the Personal and Land Tax lists from 1807 to 1828. The third U. S. census taken 1810 for Loudoun County, lists HANNAH HESSER as head of the family with 3 males under 10, 3 males 10 to 16, 1 male 16 to 26, 3 females under 10, 4 females 16 to 26, 1 female 26 to 45 (this last would be Hannah). In 1816 HANNAH's name appears on the Loudoun County personal and land tax lists "with sons JOHN and DAVID"; in 1818 "with sons JOHN and DAVID"; in 1820 "with sons JOHN, DAVID, and ANDREW"; in 1828, "heirs" is written after HANNAH's name—so she has probably died.

The Loudoun County Personal and Land Tax Lists show:

JOHN HESSER 1817, 1818, 1821, 1822, 1826, 1827, 1829.

DAVID HESSER 1821, 1825, 1829.

ANDREW HESSER 1826-1829.

The 1810 U. S. census for Loudoun County shows JNO. HESSER as head of family with 1 male under 10, 3 females under 10, his wife and 5 slaves.

The county clerk for Loudoun County reports the following Hesser names on court records—however we have no way of placing them in any family order: they are, James E. Hesser, Eliz. H. Hesser, A. R. Hesser, A. T. Hesser, and Ellen Hesser.

In analyzing the above information it would seem that CONRAD HESSER, a farmer living in Loudoun County, Virginia, was on the tax lists from 1782 to 1789, and he died intestate, December, 1789. He possibly lived there before 1782 as that is the date the tax records were begun in Loudoun County. It would seem that his wife may have been ANN HESSER and that she took over the land at his death as she is on the tax lists from 1789 to 1800. ANN became tenant of the same land which CONRAD had leased from a Mrs. Mary Lee.

Possibly PETER HESSER who was on the tax lists from 1791 to 1797 and ANDREW HESSER (1) who was on the tax lists from 1794 to 1806 were brothers and sons of CONRAD. No further mention is made of PETER. He possibly moved farther west. ANDREW (1) who had 156 acres in 1805 probably died in 1807 and HANNAH, his wife, took over the land. HANNAH appears on the tax lists from 1807 to 1828 with 156 acres which were located four miles southeast of Blue Ridge. HANNAH had a large family, seven boys and seven girls. She died in 1828. Of the fourteen children, the names of JOHN, DAVID, ANDREW (2) are listed on the tax lists. JOHN is listed for the years 1817, 1818, 1821, 1822, 1826, 1827, 1829 and DAVID for 1821, 1825, 1829; ANDREW (2) was listed for the years 1826 to 1829.

The 1850 U. S. census shows ANDREW (2) living in Taylor County, Virginia, (now West Virginia). He was born in 1799 or 1800: his wife was MARY, born 1803, and ANDREW (2) is listed as a farmer with real estate worth \$3600. His children were HARMON, b. 1828, JOHN, b. 1829, HANNAH, b. 1831, ANDREW (3), b. 1837 and MARY b. 1845. They were all listed as born in Virginia.

With the foregoing information as a basis from which to start and assuming that Johann Conrad Hesser who came to Pennsylvania, October 20, 1752 was the original ancestor of this particular branch of the Hesser family, there would seem to be a generation in between Johann Conrad which was not accounted for to date and the one we are here starting with. It is very possible that the Peter Conrad



Hesser (1) we are starting with was a son of Andrew (1) and Hannah Hesser of Loudoun County, Va., and Andrew in turn was a son of Conrad who died in Loudoun County in 1789 and this Conrad was the Johann Conrad who arrived in Philadelphia Oct. 20, 1752 on the good ship Duke of Wirtemberg. Then again the Peter who was on the Loudoun County tax lists in 1791 to 1797 may have been the Peter Conrad (1) with whom we are starting and he a son of Conrad who died in Loudoun County in 1789 and as stated before was the one who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1752.

The reader will note how the family Bible names have carried on from one generation to another—such as Andrew, Peter, James, John, Jacob, David, Caleb, Hannah, and Mary. They were possibly very religious.

In establishing the four sons of Peter Conrad Hesser (1), namely, John Conrad (2), Jonathan (2), Andrew (2), and Peter (2), your author in explanation would say that Jacob Hesser (3), who was born 1812 and James Warren Hesser (3), born 1819, were cousins (they married sisters, Elizabeth and Maria Hahn) their fathers (John Conrad (2) and Jonathan (2)) would be brothers and their father would be Peter Conrad (1); so the two oldest sons of Peter Conrad (1) are established in the family. At the time of the 1850 U. S. census, Andrew Hesser (2), age fifty, born in Virginia, was living with his family near Pruntytown, Taylor County, Virginia, 63rd District, (it is now West Virginia). Probably he did not cross the Virginia mountains and go into Ohio, or if he did he returned to Virginia from Ohio. (They all moved around a great deal and for that reason it is difficult for your historian to trace them all.) A descendant of the family states that there was an Andrew and your author is assuming that he is the one—the 1850 U. S. census would make him born 1799 or 1800. The fourth son, Peter (2), was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, and lived first in Ohio and died near Valparaiso, Indiana. There were undoubtedly other children.

*Issue:*

401. JOHN CONRAD HESSER (2), b. Dec. 22, 1791 in Jefferson County, Ohio; d. 1844; m. Sarah Edgeroin (Sarah Adrian?) Nov. 20, 1809; b. June 20, 1793; d. Oct. 2, 1867; res. Ohio.
402. JONATHAN HESSER (2), b. Loudoun County, Virginia, Nov. 1, 1791; d. Feb. 16, 1876; m. Cascena Viers, April 15, 1816; b. May 5, 1800; res. Stark County, Ohio.

403. ANDREW HESSER (2), b. — 1799 or 1800; d. —; m. Mary — 1825; res. Taylor County, Virginia (now West Virginia) near Pruntytown.
404. PETER HESSER (2), b. November 8, 1805 in Jefferson County, Ohio; d. —; bur. in cemetery west of Valparaiso, Indiana; m. Mary Fleming, Dec. 2, 1829; res. Valparaiso, Indiana.

There were possibly other children.

401. JOHN CONRAD HESSER (2) was said to be one of the early settlers in Crawford County, Ohio. They were living in Jefferson County, Ohio in 1812 and later moved to Sandusky, Ohio, near the Wyandot Indian Reservation in the fall of 1823.

John Conrad (2) owned and left a family Bible, printed in 1814, which listed the dates of his own and his wife's births, and those of all his fourteen children. This Bible was inherited by his son Jacob Hesser (3) who, while living in Ohio, traded it in on a new Bible which is now in the possession of Miss Edna Hesser (5), Nichols, Iowa. Some one, not known, copied from the first Bible the family genealogical history, inserting the sheet in the new Bible. A descendant states that in 1840 he moved to a point on the Mississippi River between Iowa and Illinois, to be near Illinois City and operated a ferry boat and hotel at that point until his death in 1844.

*Issue:*

405. PETER HESSER (3), b. Jan. 9, 1811; he settled in Illinois and is buried near Illinois City, Ill.; he married three times and was the father of ten children; no further information.
406. JACOB HESSER (3), b. Sept. 8, 1812 in Jefferson County, Ohio; d. — 1903; bur. near Central City, Iowa; m. Elizabeth Hahn, March 21, 1833; res. Ohio and Iowa.
407. ANDREW HESSER (3), b. May 13, 1814; d. March 7, 1869; settled in Jefferson County, Iowa in 1837 and is buried in Wilks Cemetery, Jefferson County, Iowa; no further information.
408. CATHARINE HESSER (3), b. April 13, 1816; d. August 26, 1838; there is a family story that when her two brothers Peter (3) and Jacob (3) went to Iowa in 1836 she accompanied them and that she died and was buried in Iowa.
409. JENNIE HESSER (3), b. May 9, 1818.



410. BETSEY HESSER (3), b. Dec. 14, 1820; m. Zachariah Williams; lived and died in Jefferson County, Iowa.
411. SARAH A. HESSER (3), b. Sept. 20, 1822.
412. LUCINDA HESSER (3), b. Oct 20, 1826; m. a Mr. Long; res. Salem, Oregon.
413. PHOEBE HESSER (3), b. April 10, 1824; m. John Moorehead; res. lived near Illinois City, Ill.; issue Andrew and Elizabeth; Elizabeth married Peter Sedan.
414. MATILDA HESSER (3), b. May 9, 1828; d. June 5, 1841.
415. JOHN HESSER (3), b. May 14, 1830; d. Polk County, Iowa in 1867; issue, 416. HENRY who lived and died in Polk County, Iowa, and 417 MARY WILFAWN who died in Iowa.
418. JANE HESSER (3), b. Oct. 25, 1832; m. John Kennedy.
419. JONATHAN HESSER (3), b. June 11, 1834; d. April 1, 1835.
420. ISAAC THOMAS HESSER (3), b. in Iowa Nov. 18, 1836; d. April 20, 1906; m. Sarah J. Fox; res. he settled in Oklahoma and founded a large family.
405. PETER HESSER (3), b. Jan. 9, 1811; lived in Foster, Illinois; d. — buried near Illinois City, Ill.; he is said to have been married three times. He was a member of the Baptist church.

*Issue:*

421. HERMAN HESSER (4), b. —; was a soldier in the Civil War and was wounded, losing his right arm. He returned home and later went to California.
422. PETER HESSER (4), b. —
423. MINERVA HESSER (4), m. Oziah McNall, lived in Illinois.
424. SARAH JANE HESSER (4), m. Filmore Hubbard.
425. JOHN C. (4), lived in Muscatine, Iowa.
426. MATILDA HESSER (4), m. William Bell.
427. FANNY HESSER (4), m. Sam Beardsley.
428. LULU HESSER (4), m. Rufus Brown.
429. LIZZIE HESSER (4), m. — Ripley.
406. JACOB HESSER (3), b. Sept. 8, 1812 in Jefferson County, Ohio; d. 1903, Central City, Iowa (near Cedar Rapids, Iowa); he and his wife are buried near Central City; m. Elizabeth Hahn,<sup>3</sup> March 21, 1833 who was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, Dec. 15, 1814.

He lived with his parents near the Wyandot Indian Reservation in Ohio from 1823 to 1836, when he moved to Iowa on land then known as the Blackhawk Purchase. Accompanying him to Iowa were his wife, his sons David (4) and Caleb (4) and his brother

<sup>3</sup>Elizabeth Hahn was the first child born to Caleb Hahn and Isabell McHenry-Hahn; Isabell McHenry was b. May 10, 1795 and d. July 3, 1883; the other children of Caleb Hahn were Rebecca, Mariah, John, Bell.

Peter (3). He took up land on a claim near what is now known as the Wildcat Den Park. He served as a member of the first petit jury in Muscatine County, Iowa.<sup>1</sup> At the third meeting of the Election Commissioners for Muscatine County, held April 1838, Peter Hesser (3) served as one of the judges, representing Montpelier township.<sup>2</sup> After about three years, Jacob (3) returned to Ohio, where he did farming. For a few years, about 1864, he conducted a general store in partnership with his son John E. Hesser (4). He was a devout member of the Baptist Church. There is record of his paying taxes in Wyandot County in 1865.

He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding at their home near Nevada, Ohio, on March 21, 1883. In the fall of 1884, he and his wife, together with three of their sons and their families again moved to Iowa, where he lived the rest of his life in retirement. He died at the home of his son, George W. Hesser (4).

*Issue:*

428. DAVID HESSER (4), b. April 5, 1834; d. May 8, 1885; res. Ohio and Iowa; bur. in Nichols, Iowa.

429. CALEB HESSER (4), b. Nov. 26, 1836; d. Jan. 5, 1921; res. Ohio, Oklahoma, and Iowa; bur. Nichols, Iowa.

430. REBECCA JANE HESSER (4), b. Jan. 6, 1841; never married.

431. JOHN E. HESSER (4), b. June 30, 1843; d. May 1, 1922; m. Elizabeth Dalton —; res. Crawford County, Ohio and Nichols, Iowa; bur. Nichols, Iowa.

432. ANDREW HESSER (4), b. March 22, 1846; d. Nov. 6, 1925; res. Kenton, Ohio.

433. ISAAC DOUGLAS HESSER (4), b. Nov. 16, 1847; d. June 25, 1929; m. Mary —, b. 1844, d. 1926; res. Carthage, Mo.

434. MARIA ELIZABETH HESSER (4), m. George DeJean.

435. PETER C. HESSER (4), b. Oct. 10, 1851, d. Oct. 28, 1928; m. Miranda Jane Felton; res. Fort Scott, Kansas

436. GEORGE WASHINGTON HESSER (4), b. June 5, 1854; d. Sept. 24, 1914; m. Sarah Catharine Hall, March 26, 1890; res. Central City, Iowa.

437. AN INFANT.

428. DAVID HESSER (4), b. April 5, 1834; d. May 8, 1885; res. Ohio, Oklahoma and Nichols, Iowa.

*Issue:*

440. FREDERICK P. (5), res. Beloit, Kansas; issue: 441. Maggie

<sup>1</sup>History of Muscatine County, Iowa, Clark Publishing Co., Chicago, 1911—Vol. I., p. 90.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 88.



May (6); 442. Flora Ellen (6); 443. Mary Edna (6); 444. John Craig (6).

445. MYRA HESSER (5), m. R. A. Wilson; res. Findley, Ohio; issue: Caroline Gustava (6), Myra Kate (6), John Peter (6), Samuel Austin (6), Rachel Anazetta (6).

429. CALEB HESSER (4), b. Nov. 26, 1836; d. Jan. 5, 1921; res. Ohio, Oklahoma, and Nichols, Iowa.

*Issue:*

446. DORA HESSER (5), res. Nichols, Iowa; m. Ora Felton; issue: Harry (6), Hazel (6), Carl (6), Alma (6).

447. CONNIE HESSER (5), b. —; d. Ohio.

448. MAZIE HESSER (5), b. —; d. Nichols, Iowa.

431. JOHN E. HESSER (4), b. June 30, 1843, Crawford County, Ohio; d. May 1, 1922, Nichols, Iowa; m. Elizabeth Dalton, a native of Liverpool, England, May 22, 1872; she was born Jan. 6, 1847 and died 1924 at Nichols, Iowa. Son of Jacob Hesser (3) and Elizabeth Hahn.

When John E. (4) was eighteen years old he ran away from home and joined the Union Army. He took part in the battle of Shiloh, and was wounded in the battle of Stone River. He was also wounded in the battle of Chickamauga and was captured and sent to Libby prison. After being exchanged and upon his return home he farmed for a while, taught school and operated a general store. When his family moved to Iowa, he went with them making a distinct place for himself in the town of Nichols, Iowa. He was a staunch Baptist and served as postmaster in Nichols for many years and occupied other public positions of trust. He was a worthy and upright citizen.

*Issue:*

449. EDNA HESSER (5), b. Feb. 17, 1873; res. Nichols, Iowa; never married; she was very interested in the genealogy of her family and might be called its historian.

450. W. HAYES HESSER (5), b. Nov. 6, 1875; res. 4310 S. E. 64th Ave., Portland, Oregon; issue: 451. Robert Hesser (6), who lives in Texas.

452. EVERARD C. HESSER (5), b. Apr. 22, 1877 in Wyandot County, Ohio; res. West Liberty, Iowa; m. Hannah Boitscha in Nichols, Iowa, Oct. 29, 1902.

453. MARY ELIZABETH HESSER (5), b. Dec. 19, 1888; m. M. S. Albright; res. Muscatine, Iowa; issue Mervin (6), b. Aug. 27, 1911.

452. EVERARD C. HESSER (5), b. April 22, 1877; res. West

Liberty, Iowa; m. Hannah Boitscha, Oct. 29, 1902; Hannah, b. Mar. 14, 1882; d. Oct. 31, 1938.

*Issue:*

- 454. J. W. CLIFFORD (6), b. Nov. 12, 1903; res. Nichols, Iowa; never married; has been very interested in the history of his family and has helped greatly in the preparation of this section of the Hesser genealogy.
- 455. EDNA CECELIA HESSER (6), b. Dec. 20, 1904; m. Lloyd Disher; res. Syracuse, Ind.; issue Marcia (7), b. Oct. 4, 1934.
- 456. MARGUERITE HESSER (6), b. Feb. 25, 1906; res. Iowa City, Iowa.
- 457. DOROTHY HESSER (6), b. Sept. 25, 1907; m. Clarence Parizek; res. Iowa City, Iowa; issue, Janis (7), b. Sept. 26, 1932, Joyce (7), b. June 12, 1934, Nancy (7), b. Sept. 14, 1936.
- 458. RAYMOND HESSER (6), b. 1909; d. 1910.
- 459. THOMAS J. HESSER (6), b. Jan. 16, 1911; serving in the U. S. Army.
- 460. PAUL EVERARD HESSER (6), b. June 3, 1916; res. West Liberty, Iowa.
- 432. ANDREW HESSER (4), b. March 22, 1846; d. Nov. 6, 1925; res. Kenton, Ohio.

*Issue:*

- 461. WILLIAM ALFONSO HESSER (5), b. 1867; d. 1909; issue: 462. CLAY (6); 463. RALPH (6); 464. EVERETT (6); 465. CHARLES (6).
- 466. JACOB R. HESSER (5), b. 1869; issue: 467. MARION A. (6), whose residence is Toledo, Ohio, 1835 Chase Street.
- 468. HARRIET HESSER (5), b. —, m. O. L. Williams; issue: BELLE (6), BLANCHE (6), ERNEST (6), RAY (6), VINA (6), WALTER (6).
- 469. VICTOR HESSER (5), b. —; issue: 470. RUTH (6); 471. ELMER (6); 472. HELEN (6); 473. MARIE (6); 474. LUELLE (6); 475. EARL (6); 476. CHARLES (6); 477. PAUL (6)
- 478. MAY (5), b. —; m. Clarence Sales; issue RUTH (6)
- 479. GUY HESSER (5), b. —; res. Rock Island, Ill.; issue: 480. AUGUST (6); 481. LLOYD (6); 482. FRED (6); 483. GEORGE (6); 484. GUY (6); 485. HELEN (6); 486. ETHEL (6)
- 433. ISAAC DOUGLASS HESSER (4), b. Nov. 16, 1847; d. June 25, 1929; m. Mary —, b. 1844, d. 1926; res. Carthage, Missouri.

*Issue:*

- 487. JACOB Y. HESSER (5), b. —; d. Mar. 28, 1935; res. Carthage, Mo.; no issue.



488. EMMA JANE HESSER (5), b. May 30, 1872; m. George Anderson Long; res. Carthage, Mo.; issue WILLIAM ISAAC (6), GEORGE ANDERSON II (6), MARY CLARABEL (6), KATHERINE EMMA (6)

489. EDGAR WILLIAM HESSER (5), b. 1873; d. Oct. 18, 1936; m. Lettie; res. lived in Carthage, Mo., later moved to Grass Valley, California.

489. EDGAR WILLIAM HESSER (5), b. 1873; d. Oct. 18, 1936; m. Lettie; res. lived in Carthage, Missouri, he later moved to Grass Valley, California.

*Issue:*

490. FRED EDGAR HESSER (6), b. Jan. 7, 1897; m. Lucile Jenks, May 27, 1916; res. Carthage, Mo.; issue: 491. BETTY (7), b. July 29, 1918, m. Nov. 30, 1939 to Walter Davis, issue Lance Allen Davis (8)

492. FLOYD SAMUEL HESSER (6), b. June 13, 1898; m. June 24, 1923 to Marion Helen Still; res. Bloomington, California; issue: 493. JAMES RICHARD HESSER (7), b. June 11, 1926, serving in the U. S. Navy on the U. S. S. Ticonderoga.

494. CHARLES ERNEST HESSER (6), b. June 3, 1901; m. Hazel — Dec., 1921; res. Richmond, California; issue 495. GEORGE EDGAR (7), b. May 25, 1926, serving with the U. S. Marines; 496. MILDRED (7), b. Sept. 12, 1924; res. Stockton, Calif.

497. CLARENCE MOUNT HESSER (6), b. Sept. 28, 1905 at Carthage, Mo.; m. — Joyce; res. Portland, Oregon; serving with the U. S. Merchant Marine.

435. PETER C. HESSER (4), b. Oct. 10, 1851, Wyandot County, Ohio; d. Oct. 28, 1928; res. Fort Scott, Kansas; m. Miranda Jane Felton.

*Issue:*

498. CLARENCE ROY HESSER (5), res., St. Louis, Missouri.

499. CHARLES F. HESSER (5), res., St. Louis, Missouri.

500. CARRIE M. HESSER (5), m. — Weber, res., Pueblo, Colorado.

501. MAUDE E. HESSER (5), m. Walter Munn; res. Ft. Scott, Kan.

436. GEORGE WASHINGTON HESSER (4), b. June 5, 1854; d. Sept. 24, 1914, Central City, Iowa; m. Sarah Catharine Hall, March 26, 1890; Sarah was born May 30, 1857.

*Issue:*

502. WILLIAM JACOB HESSER (5) (He was known as "Jay"), b. June 4, 1896; m. June 16, 1920 to Ella Thomas; res. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, issue, 503. KATHRYN CARRIE (6), b. Aug. 11, 1921; 504. MARGARET ELIZABETH (6), b. Oct. 22, 1923; and 505. JAY WILLIAM (6), b. May 1, 1925.

420. ISAAC THOMAS HESSER (3), b. November 18, 1836 in Iowa; d. April 20, 1906; was the youngest of the fourteen children born to John Conrad Hesser (2) and Sarah Edgeroin; m. Sarah Fox; res. Oklahoma. A letter from his son (Peter C. Hesser, Glencoe, Oklahoma, dated April 5, 1943) states, "My father became estranged from his family by reason of politics and religious differences about the time of the War of the Rebellion. From conversation with him, I learned that his people, as he often spoke of them, were Republicans and Baptists, but he marrying one Sarah Fox, whose father was a Rebel Democrat, and he, Isaac T. Hesser (3), and his wife, Sarah J., were converted and became members of the Church of Christ during the struggle between the States. Father migrated from Iowa where he was born to Missouri, from Missouri to Kansas, from Kansas to Nebraska, from Nebraska to Oklahoma, where he died April 20, 1906 at the age of 69 years. Father and mother reared thirteen children, nine boys and four girls." Isaac Thomas Hesser (3) was an ordained Baptist minister, as was one of his sons.

*Issue:* Thirteen children.

506. GEORGE W. HESSER (4), lives near Glencoe, Oklahoma (oldest child of Isaac Thomas Hesser)

507. PETER C. HESSER (4), res. Route 4, Glencoe, Oklahoma.

402. JONATHAN HESSER (2), b. Nov. 1, 1791; d. Feb. 16, 1876; m. April 15, 1816 to Cascena Viers who was b. May 5, 1800; d. ——. There was a Brice Viers in Jefferson County who owned and operated a tannery at that time and he may have been the father of Cascena Viers; according to a statement of a grandson, Lucian Eldred Hesser (4), Jonathan (2) was born in Loudoun County, Virginia and settled in Stark County, Ohio.

*Issue:*

508. PARMELIA ANN (3), b. Feb. 15, 1817; m. Shaphat Criss; issue, JONATHAN (4), LUCIAN (4), ELLA (4), CHARLES (4)

509. JAMES WARREN (3), b. Mar. 9, 1819; m. (1) Sophia Humphrey and (2) Mariah Ann Hahn; d. at Sycamore, Ohio, 1906

510. AMANDA (3), b. Nov. 20, 1821; m. Lucian Shoemaker; issue, PARMELIA ANN (4), SARAH CASCENA (4)

511. JOHN ELISHA (3), b. Feb. 11, 1829; m. Rebecka Legget; issue, 512. JOHN (4), 513. CHARLES (4), 514. LENORA (4)

515. MARY MARGARET (3), b. June 14, 1831; m. Comfort Ranney; issue, LUTHER (4), SADDIE (4), LUELLA (4), JAMES (4)

516. BASIL or BAZZILLE (3), b. Aug. 29, 1833; died in infancy.



517. MADISON WEBSTER (3), b. Aug. 29, 1835; m. Catharine Mil-  
liner; issue, 518. EDWARD (4), 519. CARRY (4), 520. EMMA  
(4), 521. MAUDE (4), 522. ALBERT (4), 523. NELLIE (4)

509. JAMES WARREN HESSER (3), b. March 9, 1819; d.  
1906 in Sycamore, Ohio; m. (1) Sophia Humphrey and (2) Mariah  
Ann Hahn; he was a shoemaker by trade and also did some farming;  
he was a member of the Church of Christ: one grandson says he was  
born in Stark County, Ohio, and another says he thinks he was born  
in Columbiana County, Ohio. According to the 1850 U. S. census  
taken Sept. 21, he was farming in Richland Township, Allen County,  
Ohio, and had real estate valued at \$1200; report states he was born  
in Ohio.

*Issue:* First wife, Sophia Humphrey.

524. MARY MARGARET (4), b. July 17, 1842.

525. ALPHONSO DAVIS (4), b. Dec. 31, 1844; d. —; res. Ada,  
Ohio, R. F. D.; m. Rosana Miller.

526. CASCENA ELIZABETH (4), b. Nov. 5, 1847; d. in Youth,  
Nevada, Ohio.

527. JOSEPH MADISON (4), b. March 6, 1851; m. Jane Twining;  
res. Kipton, Ohio; issue, 528. Eldred Hesser.

529. SOPHIA ANNE (4), b. Aug. 15, 1853.

Second wife, Mariah Ann Hahn

530. JONATHAN ELISHA (4), b. Jan. 15, 1855, Bluffton, Ohio,  
R. D.; m. Sarah Catharine Hall; issue, 531. Otho Elwood  
(5); res. Ada, Ohio and later Pomona, California; occupa-  
tion, furniture merchant.

532. LUCIAN ELDRED (4), b. June 23, 1856; Bluffton, Ohio, R. D.;  
m. Sept. 18, 1876 at Kipton, Ohio to Margaret Ann David-  
son; d. March 18, 1940; res. Genoa, Ohio; occupation, hard-  
ware merchant and blacksmith.

533. PERMELIA BELL (4), b. Nov. 23, 1857; m. George W. Edge-  
comb; issue, Mary (5), Elwood (5), and Lena (5); res.  
Lima, Ohio.

534. CORA AMANDA (4), b. Aug. 7, 1859; m. James Aldrich; res.  
Lima, Ohio, issue, Revardy (5), Musetta Myrtle (5), John  
Lucian (5), Mamie (5), Riley (5), Bessie (5), Glades (5),  
Jessie (5), Ruth (5), Glen (5).

535. JAMES GILLIAM L. (4), b. May 9, 1861; d. Oct. 1944; res.  
Cleveland, Ohio; m. Minnie Pogue; occupation, railroad  
employee.

536. SHAPHET McJUNKINS (4), b. July 3, 1862; d. about 1916;  
res. Larue, Ohio; profession, doctor of medicine; m. Eva  
Flackler.

INFANT daughter, b. June 7, 1864.

537. CHARLES CALEB (4), b. Aug. 31, 1866; d. 1895; res. Harrod, Allen County, Ohio; occupation, restaurant and hotel business; m. Sarah Holman.

538. NIMNIA ANN (4), b. Aug. 25, 1868; d. —; m. Earl Markle; issue, Patricia Ann (5) and Joan (5)

525. ALPHONSO DAVIS HESSER (4), b. Dec. 31, 1834; d. —; res. Ada, Ohio, R. F. D.; m. Rosana Miller; occupation, farmer; he served in the Civil War and was a prisoner of the Confederate Army at Andersonville prison.

*Issue:*

539. CHARLES WEBSTER (5), res. Ada, Ohio; deceased; m. Lillie Grubb; issue, 540. Wilbur (6), 541. Ruth (6), 542. Ruby (6), 543. Berlin (6)

544. ISAAC LUTHER (5), b. —; m. Olie Wier; res. Ada, Ohio; issue, 545. Juniata (6)

546. IRA JACOB (5), b. —

547. JOSEPH DORSEY (5), b. —; deceased; res. Ada, Ohio; never married.

548. HATTIE (5), b. —; m. Frank Kennedy; res. Ada, Ohio; issue, Lillian (6), and Ralph (6)

527. JOSEPH MADISON HESSER (4), b. March 6, 1861; m. Jane Twining; res. Kipton, Ohio; occupation, blacksmith.

*Issue:*

528. ELDRED (5) —; deceased; unmarried.

530. JONATHAN ELISHA (4), b. Jan. 15, 1855; in Bluffton, Ohio, R. F. D.; m. Sarah Catharine Hall; res. Ada, Ohio and later Pomona, California; occupation, furniture merchant and general store; member of Methodist Church.

*Issue:*

531. OTHO ELWOOD (5), b. —; m. Viella Crites; issue, 549. Kathryn Crites (6), and 550. Ruth Mary (6)

532. LUCIAN ELDRED HESSER (4), b. June 23, 1856, Bluffton, Ohio; d. March 18, 1940; m. Sept. 18, 1876 at Kipton, Ohio to Margaret Ann Davidson who died Nov. 5, 1945; he was a member of the church of Christ; occupation, hardware merchant and blacksmith; res. Genoa, Ohio.

551. PEARL ARMEDA (5), b. Oct. 11, 1877; m. Frank Wood.

552. SADIE ETHEL HULDA (5), b. Nov. 8, 1879; m. Henry Mowery; issue, Berlin, Katurah, Hazel, Doit.

553. JAMES HENRY (5), b. Feb. 1, 1882; m. Sept. 15, 1904 to Grace E. Shepard of Henrietta, Ohio; res. Genoa, Ohio.

554. WILLIAM H. (5), b. Oct. 9, 1885; d. June 30, 1889.



553. JAMES HENRY HESSER (5), b. Feb. 1, 1882; m. Sept. 15, 1904 to Grace E. Shepard; res. Genoa, Ohio.

*Issue:*

555. MARGARET E. (6), b. Feb. 17, 1911 at Oberlin, Ohio; res. Genoa, Ohio.

556. JAMES DEAN (6), b. Oberlin, Ohio, Oct. 2, 1915; m. June 22, 1940 to Marriam E. Smith of Philadelphia, b. Nov. 26, 1918; res. Cleveland, Ohio.

535. JAMES GILLAM HESSER (4), b. May 9, 1861; d. Oct. 1944; res. Cleveland, Ohio; m. Minnie Pogne; occupation railroad employee; member of Methodist church.

*Issue:*

557. R. J. VIERS HESSER (5), res. 1361 Edward, Lakewood, Ohio; he has one son, 558. Allen (6)

559. ORTON P. HESSER (5), res. Salt Lake City, Utah; res. 1470 So. 5th St.; has one son, 560. Robert (6) in World War II, and one daughter, 561. Faye (6)

536. SHAPHAT McJUNKINS HESSER (4), b. July 3, 1862; d. about 1916; m. Eva Flackler; res. Larue, Ohio; profession, doctor of medicine; member of Methodist church; he was known as Uncle Mac.

*Issue:*

562. H. RAY HESSER (5), res. Detroit, Mich.; no issue; m. Delight Thombs.

563. ADA FAY (5), b. —; m. John Armstrong; res. Cleveland, Ohio; issue, Hesser (6), James (6), George Ray (6)

564. ANNA RODA (5), b. —; m. J. M. Wallace; res. Hammond, Indiana; issue, Thomas McWallace (6), Don Mack (6)

565. HELEN JANE (5), b. —; m. Marion F. Rice; res. Crestline, Ohio; issue, Hal Rice (6)

566. DON HESSER (5), b. —; unmarried; res. Gallipolis, Ohio.

567. EVA CATHARINE (5), b. —; m. George Kleinhaus; res. Cleveland, Ohio.

537. CHARLES CALEB HESSER (4), b. Aug. 31, 1866; 1895?; res. Harrod, Allen County, Ohio; he was in the restaurant and hotel business; m. Sarah Holman; he was a member of the Lutheran church

*Issue:*

568. WARREN HESSER (5), b. —

569. BERNICE CHARLES (5), b. —; m. Hazel Leatherman; res. San Diego, California; issue, 570. Jane (6)

571. NIMNIA (5), b. —; m. Earl Markel; res. 229 Madison, Akron, Ohio; issue, Patricia Ann (6) and Joan (6)

517. MADISON WEBSTER HESSER (3), b. Aug. 29, 1835; m. Catharine Milliner.

*Issue:*

572. EDWARD (4), m. Alice Alexander, issue, 573. Hazel

574. CARRY (4), m. Charles Snodgrass

575. EMMA (4), m. Alfred Romey

576. MAUDE (4), m. Phillip Meeks

577. ALBERT (4)

578. NELLIE (4)

403. ANDREW HESSER (2), b. 1799 or 1800 in Virginia; d. —; m. Mary — about 1825; res. near Pruntytown, in Taylor County, Virginia. The information for this family was secured from the 1850 U. S. Census. The census states that Andrew (2) a farmer and had real estate worth \$3,600. His two sons, Harmon (3) and John (3) are listed as laborers. The census report was made July 29, 1850, and lists Andrew (2) as fifty years of age, and his wife, Mary, forty-seven. He and his family are all listed as born in Virginia.

*Issue:*

579. HARMON HESSER (3), b. 1826, Virginia

580. JOHN HESSER (3), b. 1829, Virginia

581. HANNAH HESSER (3), b. 1831, Virginia

582. ANDREW HESSER (3), b. 1837; Virginia

583. MARY HESSER (3), b. 1845, Virginia

582. ANDREW HESSER (3), b. May —, 1837 in Virginia (Loudoun County), lived near Pruntytown (now West Virginia) in Taylor County; d. May —, 1906; m. Anna McCarmack Grigsby, b. April 18, 1844; d. Jan. 30, 1921.

*Issue:*

MARY FRANCES (4), b. June 8, 1869; res. Windber, Pa.

MAY (MAE) FLORENCE (4), b. Dec. 8, 1870; d. April 1946; m. Samuel Keller Garber; issue Ernest Samuel and Gladys Anne.

ERNEST JAY HESSER (4), b. May 27, 1872; res. Horseheads, New York.

REV. CLAUDE MITCHELL HESSER (4), b. Aug. 28, 1873, Winchester, Va.; m. Mary E. Williams, June 22, 1904; Methodist minister occupying many important assignments before his retirement; residence 702 Virginia Ave., Roanoke, Va.; issue, 598. James Mitchell Hesser, b. Jan. 30, 1907 and 599. Elizabeth Hesser, b. Dec. 23, 1909.



CLARENCE ARGYLE HESSER (4), b. Sept. 29, 1875; res. 300 Battle Ave., Rocky Mt., N. C.

ANNA MASON (4), b. Jan. 1, 1878; m. Lawrence Dwight Chaffee; issue, Clarence Andrew and Lawrence Chaffee, b. Feb. 3, 1908, Ithaca, N. Y.; res. 2023 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va.

FLORENCE LEE (4), b. Feb. 4, 1881; res. Station "L," Washington, D. C.

BESSIE BLANCHE (4), b. May 15, 1884; d. Aug. 2, 1943; res. Washington, D. C.

WILLIAM NEWTON HESSER (4), b. April 10, 1886; res. Horseheads, New York.

583. MARY HESSER (3), b. 1845, Virginia (Loudoun County), lived near Pruntytown (now West Virginia, Taylor County); m. Samuel Cox and moved to Wichata, Texas; issue, a large family of boys, only one girl, Minnie. Minnie married an Emberson; she had one daughter, Fay Emberson, who married George Howard; her res., 712 E. Miami St., McAlester, Oklahoma.

404. PETER HESSER (2), b. Nov. 8, 1805, Jefferson County, Ohio; d. —; bur. in country cemetery west of Valparaiso, Indiana; m. Mary Fleming, Dec. 2, 1829; res. Valparaiso, Indiana. The following concerning Peter Hesser (2) is taken from the Histories of Crawford County:

Page 205 "residents of Bucyrus township in 1826 outside the village of Bucyrus, Ohio—Peter Hesser"<sup>1</sup>

Page 335 "there were also in 1830 some thirty other settlers living in Bucyrus township who paid tax on personal property—Peter Hesser"<sup>2</sup>

Page 562 "County Commissioner's Report on Expenses, June 4, 1834 Peter Hesser, Sr. and Peter Hesser, Jr. for the keeping of Andrew Hesser — \$39.00.

To Joseph Parks for medicine and attendance on Andrew Hesser, \$4.81."<sup>3</sup>

This shows Peter living in Crawford county, Ohio from 1826 to 1834.

*Issue:*

584. BENJAMIN HESSER (3), b. Feb. 2, 1830, Marion County, Ohio; he moved from Indiana to Alta Vista, Kansas in 1877; d. —; the 1850 U. S. Census lists him in Crawford Coun-

<sup>1</sup>History of Crawford County, Ohio by John E. Hopley.

<sup>2</sup>History of Crawford County, Ohio by Perrin.

<sup>3</sup>History of Crawford County, Ohio, by John E. Hopley.

ty, Ohio, as shoemaker with his wife, Henrietta, b. 1825 in Virginia; issue, 585. Mary A. and 586. Catherine.

587. REBECCA HESSER (3), b. — in Ohio; m. — Adams.

588. KATHRYN HESSER (3), b. — in Ohio; m. — Curtis.

589. PETER HESSER (3), b. — in Ohio; moved from Indiana to Ballard, Washington where he died; issue, one daughter, 590. Dora, who married William Twigg; res. Ballard, Washington.

591. JANE HESSER (3), b. — in Ohio; m. — Foster.

592. FANNIE HESSER (3), b. Nov. 17, 1842 in Ohio; m. — Coulter.

593. JOHN WESLEY HESSER (3), b. July 18, 1847, Winchester, Ohio; d. June 5, 1925; m. Marietta Stoner, July 13, 1871 of Porter County, Indiana; res. Valparaiso, Indiana; issue, 594. Minna Hesser (4) who married Mark Rockwell, Valparaiso, Ind.; 595. Grace Hesser (4), b. July 14, 1874, m. G. S. Dolson, res. Valparaiso, Indiana.



## ADDENDA

The following additional, though somewhat fragmentary information regarding Hesser families is included for the record. They have not been placed in the genealogy section of the book because of the lack of authentic information as to their ancestors. They represent important Hesser families who have brought distinction to the family name through their varied contributions to American life. Your author hopes that through continued research we may be able to establish their early pioneering ancestors.

### VIRGINIA HESSERS

600. JOHN THORNTON HESSER, b. 1839 at Louisa Court House, Louisa County near Gordonsville, Virginia. His father married a LEAR and practiced medicine in Louisa County. JOHN T. HESSER previous to 1860 moved to Illinois and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in the 61st Ills. regiment in which he made rapid advancement. After the battle of Shiloh he was made a captain. He was captured in 1864 and sent to Andersonville prison. En route he escaped and made his way north through Tennessee only to be recaptured by a party of rebel cavalry dressed in Union uniforms. He was reported killed trying to escape, the news of which caused his mother's death. He was finally exchanged and sent north. He went to St. Louis and there married EMMA HARVEY in 1870. There he established the John T. Hesser Coal Company. He died in 1906. His children are:

601. PAUL HARVEY HESSER, born in St. Louis, Mo., married (1) EDITH BILLINGS in 1894 and (2) MARY E. BLENKE in 1917; res. Dixie Highway, Covington, Kentucky. He is President of the John T. Hesser Coal Co.

602. EDITH HESSER, res. Richmond, Virginia.

The children of 601. PAUL HARVEY HESSER are:

603. HARVEY B. HESSER, Covington, Kentucky.

604. WALTER HESSER, North Vernon, Ind. His son 605. JOSEPH B. was killed in World War II in Austria, a Lt. in 15th Air Force; his plane was shot down.

606. JOHN HESSER, Denver Colorado.

607. PAUL HESSER, Covington, Kentucky.

608. MARY HESSER, Covington, Kentucky.

## AN OHIO FAMILY

609. JOSEPH HESSER and his wife LEVINA PARROTT-HESSER were pioneer farmers in Mercer county, near Mendon, Ohio. JOSEPH'S birthdate is not known, but he and his wife lie buried in the old Hussey Cemetery near Mendon. He was a member of the first village council of Mendon.

*Issue:*

610. MRS. ELIZABETH STAYNER, res. Marshalltown, Iowa.

611. JOSEPH WALTER HESSER, b. Jan. 2, 1865; d. Nov. 12, 1936; m. Alice Spry, 1891; res. Mendon, Ohio.

612. MRS. CLARA BALDWIN, res. Jefferson, Texas.

613. MRS. ELLEN RISH, res. Dayton, Ohio.

611. JOSEPH WALTER HESSER, b. Jan. 2, 1865; d. Nov. 12, 1936; res. Mendon, Ohio. He was one of the leading citizens of Mendon, Ohio. Having been reared in a Christian home he encouraged his children to lead exemplary lives. He and his family were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

*Issue:*

614. THOMAS RALPH HESSER, b. Aug. 28, 1894, res. Toledo, Ohio.

615. CHARLES B. HESSER, res. Toledo, Ohio.

616. MRS. RUTH SELTZER, res. Maumee, Ohio.

617. MRS. LELA MARIE HALE, Dayton, Ohio.

## A PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO FAMILY

618. HENRY HESSER, born in Pennsylvania around 1800. His wife was ELIZABETH. They lived in the vicinity of York, Pa. The census gives them as born in Pennsylvania. At the present, there is no further information.

*Issue:*

619. SARAH A. HESSER, b. Aug. 10, 1826, York, Pa.; m. CHARLES W. SPEAKS, Jan. 3, 1848; res. Canal Winchester, Ohio; she came to Ohio around 1840; to this Union were born JOHN C. SPEAKS (U. S. Congressman from Columbus, Ohio), OLEY SPEAKS (distinguished American composer living in New York City), ALBERT SPEAKS, Columbus Ohio and HARRY SPEAKS, (a railroad executive). MARGARET SPEAKS,



the radio and concert singer and CHARLES SPEAKS, Vice-President of the Milk Industry Foundation of New York City are children of the late HONORABLE JOHN C. SPEAKS.

620. JOHN HESSER, b. about 1828? moved from Ohio to the vicinity of LaPort, Indiana.

621. WILLIAM HESSER, b. —, d. 1907 and buried in Canal Winchester, Ohio; served in the Civil War. He had a family.

622. HENRY HESSER, b. —, died in Canal Winchester, Ohio, about 1908. He had a family.

## INDEX

Explanation of signs: The numbers in parentheses indicate the generation. Names of married female members of the Hesser family should be sought under the name of their husbands, however, some are under the family name. Names followed by no figures are members of the family by marriage.

NAME	PAGE
Adams, Rebecca (3) -----	232
Adrian, Sarah -----	219
Agnew, James H. -----	123
Augustus Lutheran Church -----	57
Aldrich, Cora Amanda (4) -----	227
Albright, Mary Elizabeth (5) -----	223
Armstrong, Ada Fay (5) -----	229
Baker, Mary Jane Rinehold -----	200
Baldwin, Clara -----	234
Bibler, Martha (6) -----	179
Black, Frank Belle -----	114
Black, George (6) -----	115
Black, James -----	112
Booth, Albert Solon (6) -----	210
Booth, Blanche (5) -----	210
Booth, James Wesley (6) -----	210
Booth, Milton Hesser (6) -----	210
Bower, Anna Rae -----	89
Boyer, Catherine -----	190
Boyer, Mary Elizabeth Reed -----	85
Bradbury, Elisha C. -----	112
Brooker, Ann -----	178
Buck Tavern -----	26, 27
Carpenter, Adelaide Amelia -----	209
Carpenter, George W. -----	37
Castner, Alexander McClay -----	121
Castner, Frank McClay -----	123
Castner, George McClay (7) -----	123
Castner, Joseph Eugene -----	123
Castner, Lura Margaret (7) -----	123
Castner, Ralph Eugene (7) -----	123
Castner, Richard Merle -----	123
Castner, Robert Grant -----	123
Castner, Roberta Louise (7) -----	123
Chaffee, Anna Mason (4) -----	231
Clapham, John -----	86
Coan, Gladys Lucille (6) -----	203
Colliflowers, John Tilghman -----	174
Concord School -----	38, 39
Cover, Addaline -----	123
Criss, Pamela Ann (3) -----	226
Coulter, Fannie (3) -----	232
Cox, Samuel -----	231
Curtis, Kathryn (3) -----	232
Curven, William -----	87
Daggett, Ethelda -----	91



NAME	PAGE
Dalton, Elizabeth	222
Davis, Betty (7)	225
DeJean, Maria Elizabeth (4)	222
Denmead, H. K.	89
Disher, Edna Cecelia (6)	224
Doll, Casper	56
Doll, Catharine	55, 95
Dolson, Grace (4)	232
Drakeley, Charles (6)	179
Drakeley, Enos (6)	179
Drakeley, Hannah (6)	179
Drakeley, Louisa (5)	179
Drinker, Elizabeth	XII, 32, 184
Drinker, Henry	XII, 32
Edgecomb, Permelia Bell (4)	227
Edgeroin, Sarah	219
Emberson, Minnie	231
Enders, May E.	XII, 69
Esch, William J.	114
Everhart, Susanna	88, 89
Faulkner, Sarah	112
Felton, Dora (5)	223
Figel, George F.	171
Figel, Grace Elizabeth (9)	171
First Methodist Church, Crestline, Ohio	122
Fitch, Grace (5)	210
Foster, Jane (3)	232
Frailey, William	85
Garber, May Florence (4)	230
Garberich, Mary Ellen	125
Gardner, Lydia (5)	211
Germantown, Pennsylvania	11
Gorgas, Benjamin	35
Gorgas, George	35
Gorgas, John	197
Grant, Rachel Sherwood	112, 118, 119
Haas, Jacob	36
Hahn, Elizabeth	219, 220, 221
Hahn, Maria	219
Hahn, Maria Ann	226
Hale, Lela Marie	234
Hall, Sarah Catharine	222, 225
Hartman, Albert F.	127, 171
Hartman, Betty Grant (8)	172
Hartman, Martha Allen (8)	172
Hartman, Mary Ellen (8)	172
Hartman, Sarah Nellie (7)	171
Hess, Mabel	89
Hesse, House of,	IX
Hesser, A. R.	218
Hesser, Abraham (3)	64, 175
Hesser, Abraham (5)	176
Hesser, Adelaide B. (6)	89
Hesser, Albert (4)	227, 230
Hesser, Albert A. (5)	90, 91

NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Albert A. (6) -----	93
Hesser, Albert A. Jr. (6) -----	91
Hesser, Albert G. (5) -----	92
Hesser, Albert Quay (6) -----	95
Hesser, Alexander Ross (5) -----	102, 105
Hesser, Alfred Paul (5) -----	69
Hesser, Alfred Paul (6) -----	71
Hesser, Alice Sarah (6) -----	113
Hesser, Allen (6) -----	229
Hesser, Allen Jacob (6) -----	174
Hesser, Alphonso Davis (4) -----	227, 228
Hesser, Amanda (5) -----	86
Hesser, Amanda (6) -----	179
Hesser, Andrew -----	216, 217
Hesser, Andrew (1) -----	218
Hesser, Andrew (2) -----	218, 219, 220, 230
Hesser, Andrew (3) -----	220, 230
Hesser, Andrew (4) -----	222, 224
Hesser, Andrew McConnell (5) -----	111, 112
Hesser, Ann -----	217, 218
Hesser, Ann (5) -----	69
Hesser, Ann (5) -----	178
Hesser, Ann (6) -----	104
Hesser, Anna Eve (4) -----	68
Hesser, Anna Lee Beaugard (6) -----	71
Hesser, Anna Maria (3) -----	178
Hesser, Annie C. (6) -----	103
Hesser, Archer Elwood (6) -----	203
Hesser, Arthur Beneson (6) -----	176
Hesser, August (6) -----	224
Hesser, Basil (3) -----	226
Hesser, Benjamin (3) -----	231
Hesser, Benjamin (5) -----	89, 90
Hesser, Benjamin Franklin (5) -----	69
Hesser, Berlin (6) -----	228
Hesser, Bernice Charles (5) -----	229
Hesser, Bessie Blanche (4) -----	231
Hesser, Betsey (3) -----	221
Hesser Business College -----	205
Hesser, Caleb (4) -----	222, 223
Hesser, Carry (4) -----	227
Hesser, Carrie M. (5) -----	225
Hesser, Carl (4) -----	68, 69
Hesser, Carol Lea (7) -----	211
Hesser, Caroline (4) -----	176
Hesser, Caroline (5) -----	176
Hesser, Cascena Elizabeth (4) -----	227
Hesser, Catharine (2) -----	49
Hesser, Catharine (3) -----	197, 220
Hesser, Catharine (4) -----	85
Hesser, Catharine (4) -----	232
Hesser, Charles (4) -----	226
Hesser, Charles (5) -----	178
Hesser, Charles (Karl) (4) -----	85, 86
Hesser, Charles (6) -----	105, 224



NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Charles (7) -----	104
Hesser, Charles B. -----	234
Hesser, Charles Brooker (4) -----	178, 179
Hesser, Charles Caleb (4) -----	228, 229
Hesser, Charles Elwood (7) -----	203
Hesser, Charles Ernest (6) -----	225
Hesser, Charles F. (5) -----	225
Hesser, Charles Frederick (5) -----	90, 91
Hesser, Charles H. (6) -----	93
Hesser, Charles H. (5) -----	89, 94
Hesser, Charles Henry (5) -----	92
Hesser, Charles Henry (6) -----	95
Hesser, Charles Lee (7) -----	91
Hesser, Charles Milton (6) -----	174
Hesser, Charles Turner (6) -----	89
Hesser, Charles Webster (5) -----	228
Hesser, Charles Wesley (4) -----	198, 209
Hesser, Charles Wesley (5) -----	210
Hesser, Charles William (5) -----	202
Hesser, Christiana (2) -----	49
Hesser, Clara (6) -----	105, 104
Hesser, Clara Matilda (6) -----	89
Hesser, Claude Mitchell Rev. (4) -----	20, 230
Hesser, Clay (6) -----	224
Hesser, Clarence Argyle (4) -----	231
Hesser, Clarence Mount (6) -----	225
Hesser, Clarence Roy (5) -----	225
Hesser, Clifford J. W. (6) -----	XII, 224
Hesser, Connie (5) -----	223
Hesser, Clyde (6) -----	104
Hesser, Clyde E. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Conrad -----	217, 218
Hesser, Daisy -----	91
Hesser, Daniel (3) -----	197
Hesser, Daniel (4) -----	68
Hesser, David -----	217
Hesser, David (4) -----	222
Hesser, David (5) -----	100, 104
Hesser, Don (5) -----	229
Hesser, Earl (6) -----	224
Hesser, Edgar William (5) -----	225
Hesser, Edith -----	233
Hesser, Edith (6) -----	104
Hesser, Edna (5) -----	220, 223
Hesser, Edward (4) -----	227, 230
Hesser, Edward (6) -----	104
Hesser, Eldred (5) -----	228
Hesser, Edwin James (5) -----	69
Hesser, Edwin Rhan (5) -----	176
Hesser, Effie (6) -----	104
Hesser, Eliz. H. -----	218
Hesser, Eliza (5) -----	69, 176
Hesser, Elizabeth (3) -----	197
Hesser, Elizabeth (5) -----	91, 89, 230
Hesser, Elizabeth (6) -----	103

NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Elizabeth Jane (9) -----	104
Hesser, Elizabeth Paul (5) -----	69
Hesser, Elizabeth Roberta (6) -----	121, 172
Hesser, Elizabeth Stella (6) -----	71
Hesser, Elizabeth W. (6) -----	XII, 179
Hesser, Ellen -----	218, 234
Hesser, Ella (5) -----	178
Hesser, Ella Gertrude (6) -----	71
Hesser, Ellen Ann (5) -----	176
Hesser, Elmer (6) -----	224
Hesser, Elsie M. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Emery (6) -----	104
Hesser, Emily Sophia (5) -----	173
Hesser, Emma (4) -----	227
Hesser, Emma (5) -----	87, 176
Hesser, Emma (6) -----	105
Hesser, Emma F. (6) -----	95
Hesser, Emma Josephine (6) -----	71
Hesser, Emma R. (5) -----	91
Hesser, Enos Furey (5) -----	179
Hesser, Enos (6) -----	179
Hesser, Ernest Grant (8) -----	168, 169
Hesser, Ernest Jay (4) -----	230
Hesser, Ethel (6) -----	224
Hesser, Ethel Martin -----	133
Hesser, Eva M. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Everard C. (5) -----	223
Hesser, Everett (6) -----	224
Hesser, Fanny (4) -----	221
Hesser, Fanny Attalee (6) -----	203
Hesser, Faye (6) -----	229
Hesser, Francis (4) -----	176
Hesser, Frank L. (6) -----	89
Hesser, Franklin Case (5) -----	92
Hesser, Frank S. (6) -----	104
Hesser, Fred (6) -----	224
Hesser, Fred Edgar (6) -----	225
Hesser, Fred Garberich (7) -----	127, 128, 169
Hesser, Frederick (2) -----	49, 55
Hesser, Frederick (3) -----	62, 64, 72
Hesser, Frederick (4) -----	85, 89, 94
Hesser, Frederick (5) -----	100, 104
Hesser, Frederick (6) -----	103
Hesser, Frederick E. (6) -----	95
Hesser, Frederick H. (7) -----	
Hesser, Frederick Jr. (5) -----	89
Hesser, Frederick P. (5) -----	222
Hesser, Frederick U. (6) -----	93
Hesser, Flora Ellen (6) -----	223
Hesser, Florence Lee (4) -----	231
Hesser, Floyd Samuel (6) -----	225
Hesser, Gaylord (5) -----	112
Hesser, Gaylord (8) -----	171
Hesser, George (3) -----	178, 197
Hesser, George (4) -----	100, 105, 173



NAME	PAGE
Hesser, George (5) -----	69
Hesser, George (6) -----	224
Hesser, George Edgar (7) -----	225
Hesser, George Ernest (7) -----	127, 128, 129, 130, 132
Hesser, George F. (5) -----	94
Hesser, George Frederick (3) -----	197
Hesser, George Gaylord (6) -----	121, 123
Hesser, George Jacob (5) -----	174
Hesser, George Newman (6) -----	174
Hesser, George Nicholas (2) -----	40, 49, 180, 181, 183
Hesser, George Rhodes (5) -----	176
Hesser, George Washington (4) -----	198, 222, 225, 226
Hesser, George Washington (5) -----	112, 179
Hesser, Genevieve (6) -----	91
Hesser, Gerald (7) -----	203
Hesser, Gordon (7) -----	93
Hesser, Grace Clark (8) -----	171
Hesser, Grace Smith (6) -----	71
Hesser, Grant Victor (9) -----	169
Hesser, Guy (5) -----	224
Hesser, Guy (6) -----	224
Hesser, H. Ray (5) -----	229
Hesser, Hannah -----	217
Hesser, Hannah (3) -----	230
Hesser, Hannah Caroline (4) -----	198
Hesser, Hannah Catharine (5) -----	173
Hesser, Hannah Elizabeth (5) -----	94
Hesser, Hannah Paul (5) -----	69
Hesser, Harmon (3) -----	230
Hesser, Harold William (6) -----	203
Hesser, Harold Louis (7) -----	203
Hesser, Harriet (6) -----	104
Hesser, Harrison Jone (4) -----	176
Hesser, Harry (6) -----	89, 105
Hesser, Harry D. (6) -----	91
Hesser, Harry Norton (6) -----	90
Hesser, Harvey A. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Harvey B. -----	233
Hesser, Harvey Milton (6) -----	92, 93
Hesser, Hazel I. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Helen (6) -----	224
Hesser, Helen Anne Ruppin -----	168
Hesser, Henry -----	234, 235
Hesser, Henry (3) -----	197
Hesser, Henry (4) -----	221
Hesser, Henry Adda (5) -----	91
Hesser, Henry Boyer (4) -----	85, 90
Hesser, Henry C. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Henry Gottlieb (3) -----	197, 198
Hesser, Henry Grant (5) -----	202
Hesser, Henry Grant (7) -----	203
Hesser, Henry McKinty (4) -----	176
Hesser, Henry Paul (5) -----	69
Hesser, Herman (4) -----	221
Hesser, Hilda (7) -----	93

NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Horace Clark (5) -----	202, 209
Hesser, Horace Frederick (6) -----	202, 203
Hesser, Howard Leroy (6) -----	211
Hesser, Howard Millekin (7) -----	91
Hesser, Ida May (6) -----	71
Hesser, Ira Jacob (5) -----	228
Hesser, Isaac (3) -----	64, 173
Hesser, Isaac Douglas (4) -----	222, 224
Hesser, Isaac Luther (5) -----	228
Hesser, Isaac Thomas (3) -----	221, 226
Hesser, Isabella (5) -----	112, 113
Hesser, Ira S. (7) -----	93
Hesser, Irvin (6) -----	104
Hesser, Jacob (3) -----	64, 95, 178, 219, 220, 221
Hesser, Jacob (4) -----	176
Hesser, Jacob (5) -----	100, 104, 112
Hesser, Jacob (6) -----	103
Hesser, Jacob R. (5) -----	224
Hesser, Jacob Y. (5) -----	224
Hesser, Jane (3) -----	221
Hesser, Jane (5) -----	89
Hesser, Jane (6) -----	229
Hesser, James (4) -----	176
Hesser, James (5) -----	100, 104, 176
Hesser, James Craig (9) -----	169
Hesser, James Dean (6) -----	229
Hesser, James E. -----	218
Hesser, James E. (5) -----	89, 90
Hesser, James Gilliam L (4) -----	227, 229
Hesser, James Henry (5) -----	228, 229
Hesser, James Howard (6) -----	104
Hesser, James Martin (8) -----	168
Hesser, James Mitchell (5) -----	230
Hesser, James Page (5) -----	69
Hesser, James Richard (7) -----	225
Hesser, James Warren (3) -----	226, 227
Hesser, James William (7) -----	203
Hesser, Jay William (6) -----	225
Hesser, Jennie (3) -----	220
Hesser, Jennie (6) -----	105
Hesser, Jerome Greenwood (7) -----	91
Hesser, Jessie Bruce (6) -----	175
Hesser, Jno -----	218
Hesser, Johannes (3) -----	178
Hesser, Joel Harter (5) -----	201, 202, 203
Hesser, Johann Conrad -----	216
Hesser, Johann Conrad -----	7
Hesser, Johann Friedrich (1) -----	44, 45, 47, 48
Hesser, Johann Ludwig -----	7
Hesser, John -----	217, 233, 235
Hesser, John (2) -----	49, 50, 196
Hesser, John (3) -----	64
Hesser, John (3) -----	197, 221, 230
Hesser, John (4) -----	68, 85, 100, 174, 178
Hesser, John (4) -----	226



NAME	PAGE
Hesser, John (6)	104
Hesser, John Jr. (5)	100, 104
Hesser, John C. (4)	221
Hesser, John Conrad (2)	219, 220
Hesser, John Craig (6)	223
Hesser, John E. (4)	222, 223
Hesser, John Elisha (3)	226
Hesser, John F. (5)	94
Hesser, John Henry (6)	202, 203
Hesser, John Thornton	233
Hesser, John T. Coal Company	233
Hesser, John Wesley (3)	232
Hesser, John Wesley (5)	92, 94
Hesser, John Wesley (5)	179
Hesser, John W. (4)	85, 91
Hesser, Jonathan	216
Hesser, Jonathan (2)	219, 226
Hesser, Jonathan (3)	221
Hesser, Jonathan David (5)	92
Hesser, Jonathan Elisha (4)	227, 228
Hesser, Joseph	234
Hesser, Joseph (3)	197
Hesser, Joseph (4)	85
Hesser, Joseph B.	
Hesser, Joseph Dorsey (5)	228
Hesser, Joseph Earl (6)	202
Hesser, Joseph Eugene (6)	209
Hesser, Joseph H. (7)	93
Hesser, Joseph Henry (4)	198, 202
Hesser, Joseph Madison (4)	227, 228
Hesser, Joseph Paul (5)	69
Hesser, Joseph Walter	234
Hesser, Judith Broadbent (7)	91
Hesser, Juniata (6)	228
Hesser, Kate Burkhard (5)	69
Hesser, Kathryn Carrie (6)	225
Hesser, Kathryn Crites (6)	228
Hesser, Lafayette (5)	112
Hesser, Langton Peter (5)	70, 112, 115
Hesser, Laura B. (6)	95
Hesser, Lenora (4)	226
Hesser, Leonard (2)	49, 177, 196
Hesser, Leonard (3)	178
Hesser, Lewis (5)	100, 103
Hesser, Lilly Ann (5)	174
Hesser, Lizzie (4)	221
Hesser, Lloyd (6)	224
Hesser, Lucian Eldred (4)	226, 227, 228
Hesser, Lucinda (3)	221
Hesser, Luella (6)	224
Hesser, Lura Isabelle (6)	121, 123
Hesser, Lulu (4)	221
Hesser, Lydia (5)	111
Hesser, Lydia (5)	102, 105
Hesser, Mabel A. (7)	93

NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Madison Webster (3) -----	227, 230
Hesser, Magdelene (3) -----	197
Hesser, Maggie May (6) -----	222
Hesser, Mary -----	233
Hesser, Mary (2) -----	49
Hesser, Mary (3) -----	230, 231
Hesser, Mary (4) -----	85
Hesser, Mary (6) -----	104
Hesser, Mary (6) -----	179
Hesser, Mary A. (4) -----	232
Hesser, Mary A. (5) -----	92, 94
Hesser, Mary Ann (4) -----	176
Hesser, Mary Ann (5) -----	176
Hesser, Mary E. (6) -----	95, 104
Hesser, Mary Edna (6) -----	223
Hesser, Mary Eliza (5) -----	112
Hesser, Mary Elizabeth (6) -----	113
Hesser, Mary Frances (4) -----	230
Hesser, Mary Isabel (5) -----	174
Hesser, Mary Jane (4) -----	198
Hesser, Mary Jane (6) -----	121
Hesser, Mary Margaret (4) -----	
Hesser, Mary Rosella (6) -----	121
Hesser, Mary Wilfawn (4) -----	221
Hesser, Margaret (6) -----	71, 104
Hesser, Margaret Elizabeth (6) -----	225
Hesser, Marguerite (6) -----	224, 229
Hesser, Marie (6) -----	224
Hesser, Marion A. (6) -----	224
Hesser, Marion C. (6) -----	91
Hesser, Marjorie Louise (7) -----	211
Hesser, Martha (5) -----	112, 114, 179
Hesser, Martha Ann (4) -----	178
Hesser, Martha Jane (4) -----	198
Hesser, Matilda (3) -----	221
Hesser, Matilda (4) -----	221
Hesser, Maude (4) -----	227
Hesser, Maude E. (5) -----	225
Hesser, Mazie (5) -----	223
Hesser, Mildred (7) -----	225
Hesser, Milton Henry (5) -----	210
Hesser, Minerva (4) -----	221
Hesser, Minerva McConnell (6) -----	121
Hesser, Minnie (6) -----	93
Hesser, Minnie Anna (6) -----	89
Hesser, Minnie E. (6) -----	94
Hesser, Molly (5) -----	176
Hesser, Myra (5) -----	223
Hesser, Nellie (4) -----	227, 230
Hesser, Nelson (6) -----	103
Hesser, Nettie Irene (6) -----	93
Hesser, Orton P. (5) -----	229
Hesser, Otho Elwood (5) -----	227, 228
Hesser, Paul -----	233
Hesser, Paul (6) -----	224
Hesser, Paul Everard (6) -----	224



NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Paul Harvey	233
Hesser, Paul M. (6)	71
Hesser, Paul M. (7)	71
Hesser, Peter	216, 217
Hesser, Peter (2)	219, 220, 231
Hesser, Peter (3)	220, 221, 232
Hesser, Peter (4)	221
Hesser, Peter C. (4)	222, 225, 226
Hesser, Peter Conrad (1)	216, 218, 219
Hesser, Phoebe (3)	221
Hesser, R. J. Viers (5)	229
Hesser, Rachel (2)	49
Hesser, Ralph (6)	224
Hesser, Ralph S. (8)	104
Hesser, Raymond (6)	224
Hesser, Rebecca (4)	85
Hesser, Rebecca (5)	90
Hesser, Rebecca Jane (4)	222
Hesser, Richard P. (5)	92
Hesser, Robert (6)	223, 229
Hesser, Ross Jr. (6)	105
Hesser, Roy E. (7)	93
Hesser, Roy Roscoe (5)	211
Hesser, Ruby (6)	228
Hesser, Ruth (6)	224, 228
Hesser, Ruth Mary (6)	228
Hesser, Sadie (6)	103
Hesser, Sara (3)	197
Hesser, Sarah (3)	178
Hesser, Sarah (4)	85
Hesser, Sarah (5)	100
Hesser, Sarah A.	234
Hesser, Sarah A. (3)	221
Hesser, Sarah E. (6)	94
Hesser, Sarah Elizabeth (5)	202
Hesser, Sarah Jane (4)	221
Hesser, Sarah Nellie (7)	127, 128, 171
Hesser, Shapet McJunkins (4)	227, 229
Hesser, Sharon Lynn (9)	171
Hesser, Sophia (5)	92
Hesser, Sophia Anne (4)	227
Hesser, Susan (6)	92
Hesser, Susan Rebecca (5)	173
Hesser, Susanna (4)	68
Hesser, Susanna (5)	89
Hesser, Thelma	171
Hesser, Theodore (5)	69, 71
Hesser, Theodore Meyers (7)	71
Hesser, Theodora (6)	71
Hesser, Thomas (4)	176
Hesser, Thomas J. (6)	224
Hesser, Thomas Jefferson (5)	92
Hesser, Thomas Ralph	234
Hesser, Vernon (6)	179
Hesser, Vernie (5)	211

NAME	PAGE
Hesser, Victor (5) -----	224
Hesser, W. Hayes (5) -----	223
Hesser, Walter -----	233
Hesser, Walter Guy (6) -----	91
Hesser, Warren (5) -----	229
Hesser, Warren (6) -----	105
Hesser, Wilbur (6) -----	228
Hesser, Wilhelm (4) -----	68, 69
Hesser, Wilhelm (William) (4) -----	85
Hesser, William -----	235
Hesser, William (4) -----	176, 198
Hesser, William (5) -----	89
Hesser, William (6) -----	103, 104
Hesser, William Alfonso (5) -----	224
Hesser, William Augustus (5) -----	69
Hesser, William C. (6) -----	91
Hesser, William Charles (5) -----	86, 87
Hesser, William E. (6) -----	104
Hesser, William Grant (7) -----	203
Hesser, William H. (5) -----	228
Hesser, William H. (6) -----	94
Hesser, William Henry (6) -----	XII, 6, 89
Hesser, William Jacob (5) -----	225
Hesser, William James (5) -----	92, 93
Hesser, William Jr. (7) -----	104
Hesser, William Leon (6) -----	71
Hesser, William Melvin (6) -----	
Hesser, William Newton (4) -----	231
Hesser, William Reiff (5) -----	90
Hesser, William W. (6) -----	103
Hesser, Winifred (8) -----	171
Hesser, Woods (6) -----	105
Hillman, Mary Catharine -----	71
Hinkle, Mary (5) -----	178
Hocker, Edward W. -----	XII
Hofman, Anna Maria Catharina -----	47, 177
Howard, Fay Emberson (5) -----	231
Ingram, Vivian Lucille (6) -----	209
Jenkins, Charles F. -----	XII
Journal, Elizabeth Drinker's -----	32
Kennedy, Hattie (5) -----	228
Kleinhaus, Eva Catharine (5) -----	229
Knauff, Amy -----	173
Knutson, Ethel Beulah (7) -----	203
Kyle, Nancy Diane (9) -----	172
Kyle, Robert -----	172
Langton, Isabella -----	100, 105
Langton, Peter -----	107
Lashells, Grace -----	127, 169
Lawson, Clara S. (6) -----	179
Leicy, Linda Clare (9) -----	171
Leicy, Herbert -----	171
Light, Alice Sarah (6) -----	113
Light, Donald Andrew (7) -----	113
Light, Rexford Hesser (7) -----	113

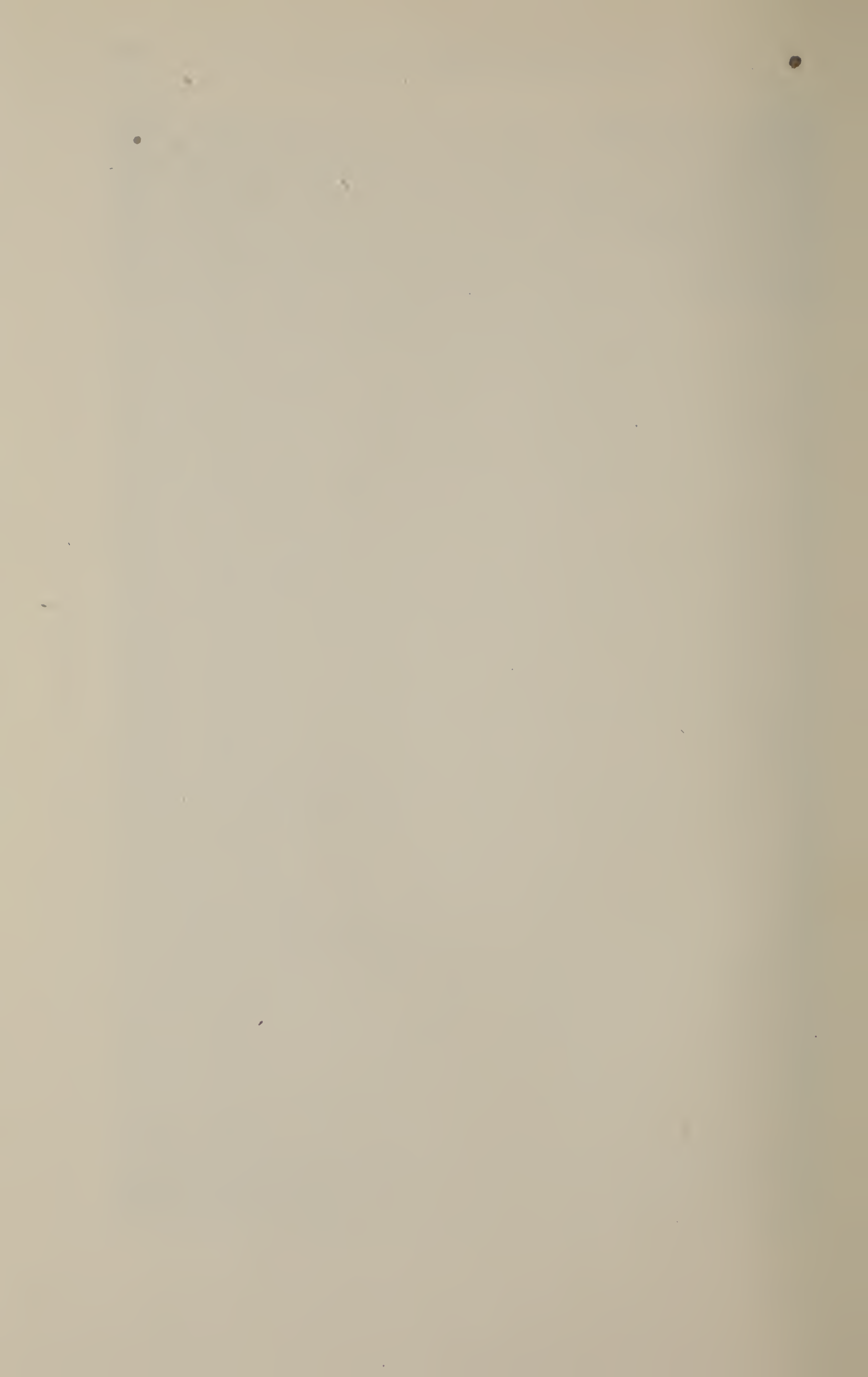


NAME	PAGE
Light, Robert (7) -----	113
Light, U. L. -----	113
Long, Emma Jane (5) -----	225
Lord, Gladys Hesser (6) -----	XII, 207, 208
Loyal Judith -----	47
Luther, Martin -----	18, 19
Lutheran Church -----	18, 19
McKeehan, Charles Watson (5) -----	199
McKeehan, Cora M. (5) -----	XII, 191, 192, 199
McKeehan, Elizabeth Catharine (4) -----	198, 199
McKeehan, George Hesser (5) -----	199
McKeehan, Hannah Jane (5) -----	199
McKeehan, Joseph Hamlin (5) -----	199
McKeehan, Lizzie Sargent (5) -----	199
McKeehan, Martha Minnick (5) -----	199
McKeehan, Wilbur Fisk (5) -----	199
Maescher, Elizabeth -----	168
Markle, Nimnia Ann (4) -----	228
Markel, Nimnia (5) -----	229
Martin, Ethel -----	127
Martin, Harry G. -----	123
Martin, Herbert Harry -----	123
Martin, Pauline Ethel -----	123
Martin, Robert Lee -----	123
Martin, Russell Hastings -----	123
Marvin, George Isaac -----	114
Marvin, Isaac W. -----	112
Meeks, Maude (4) -----	230
Merkel, Susanne -----	85
Methodist Church, Crestline, Ohio -----	122, 126
Miller, Emma Pearl (7) -----	203
Millot, Catharine -----	85
Moll, Elizabeth -----	94
Morton, Alice Joanne (8) -----	173
Morton, Glenn Eugene (7) -----	173
Morton, James William (8) -----	173
Morton, Minerva Isabelle (7) -----	172
Morton, Roberta Jean (8) -----	173
Morton, William Burton -----	172
Morton, William Lester (7) -----	172
Mowery, Sadie Ethel Hulda (5) -----	228
Muhlenberg, Henry Melchior -----	18, 58, 59, 61, 63
Newcomer, Samuel -----	174
Newman, Eliza Susan -----	174
Noe, Katherine -----	89
Norton, Anna -----	89
Osborne, A. H. -----	121
Osborne, Rachel Minerva (7) -----	123
Osborne, Roy Ernest (7) -----	123
Paul, Catharine -----	69
Pastorius, Francis Daniel -----	11, 15
Pierce, Lydia Baker (6) -----	XII, 193, 196, 200
Pirizek, Dorothy (6) -----	224
Porter, Sarah Ann (4) -----	198
Preface (Prelude) -----	IX

NAME	PAGE
Rahn, Catharine (3) -----	64
Ranney, Mary Margaret (3) -----	226
Reinhold, Lydia (4) -----	198, 200
Rice, Hal (6) -----	229
Rice, Helen Jane (5) -----	229
Rich, Stiles B. -----	89
Riter, Maria (3) -----	197
Rockwell, Minnie (4) -----	232
Romey, Emma (4) -----	230
Ross, Sarah -----	100, 102
Russell, Leona Marie Esch (7) -----	114
Sales, May (5) -----	
Schlatter, Michael, Rev. -----	177
Schumacher, Rebecca -----	85
Schwalm, Maria -----	85
Schwenk, Elizabeth -----	85, 94
Seltzer, Ruth -----	234
Setzler, Elizabeth -----	100
Sharp, Walter King, Mrs. -----	191
Shepard, Gertrude -----	123
Shoemaker, Amanda (3) -----	226
Shoener, John -----	85
Shofer, Mary Estelle -----	93
Smith, Florence (6) -----	179
Snodgrass, Carry (4) -----	230
Speaks, Albert -----	234
Speaks, Charles -----	234
Speaks, Charles W. -----	234
Speaks, Harry -----	234
Speaks, John C. -----	20, 234
Speaks, Margaret -----	20, 234
Speaks, Oley -----	20, 234
Speaks, Sarah A. Hesser -----	20, 234
Stannah, Joseph E. -----	123
Stannah, Joseph Edward (8) -----	123
Stannah, Robert Eugene (8) -----	123
Stayner, Elizabeth -----	234
Stephens, Jennie -----	123
Stover, Rev. John Casper -----	50
Strawbridge, Robert -----	172
Strawbridge, Robert Albert (9) -----	172
Strawbridge, David James (9) -----	172
St. Michael's Lutheran Church -----	11, 12
Templin, Ella C. -----	86
Tohickon Church -----	44
Trappe Church -----	57
Troxell, John -----	173
Twigg, Dora (4) -----	232
Viers, Cascena -----	219
Wallace, Anna Roda (5) -----	229
Wagner, Hanna -----	86
Walton, Adela H. (7) -----	71
Washington, General George -----	II, 2, 12, 16, 194
Weaver, Catharine (4) -----	68
Whittier, John Greenleaf -----	14, 15



NAME	PAGE
Williams, Harriet (5) -----	224
Williams, Newton B. -----	89
Wilson, R. A. -----	223
Wirt, John O. -----	104
Wood, Pearl Armeda (5) -----	228
Wunder, Catharine -----	69
Wood, Mary H. -----	94
Yake, Sadie (6) -----	179
Zulick, Henry B. -----	91





## POSTLUDE

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